Magdalo group leader admits blood compact real

Story below COL. 5

Noynoy clears Danding in Ninoy assassination

By Carlito Pablo

THE FAMILY of the late opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. knows who were the masterminds behind his assassination 20 years ago, but businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. wasn't one of them.

This according to Tarlac Rep. Benigno

NOYNOY/ A20

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Mutineer recaptured** NEWS/A4
- **Court suspends BSP governor** BUSINESS/B1
- **Saudi terror threats credible–US, UK** WORLD/A11

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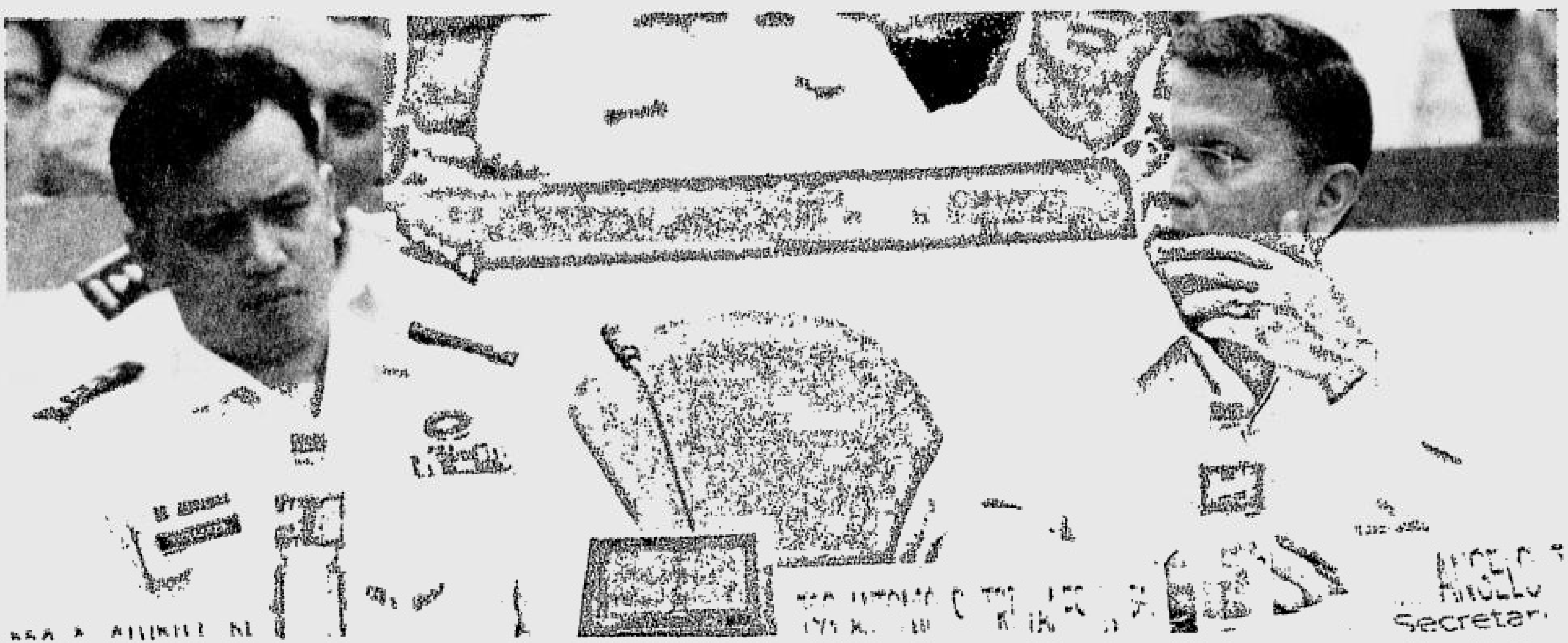

A HANDSHAKE between the protagonists—Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes—marked the start of the Senate inquiry into the July 27 mutiny, which show of civility was subsequently negated throughout the hearing by the accusatory posture of Trillanes and the other young officers toward Reyes and the other government top brass in attendance The next Senate hearing on the July 27 mutiny is scheduled on Aug. 21. JESS YUSON

'Green Base' papers set off Makati revolt

By Christine O. Avendaño

TWO documents, one fateful decision.

Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and Army Capt. Gerardo Gambala told the Senate yesterday that two classified documents pushed their group of disgruntled military officers to launch their mutiny.

The documents allegedly detailed an illegal government operation codenamed "Operation Green Base" to mount bombings in Mindanao and then blame these on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

But Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, also testifying before the Senate convened as a committee of the whole, said

GREEN/ A18

Gringo plotted to kill Erap

RAM ally says AFP defection saved Estrada from bloody end

By Cynthia D. Balana

SPECIAL REPORT

IT WAS NOT easy for retired Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig, spokesperson of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM), to open up and start his account of an untold coup plot in 2001 against the Estrada administration involving some RAM members. The group is like a band of brothers, who strictly adhere to a code of silence.

Maligalig, a key leader in the military rebellion of 1986 and of several coup attempts against the Aquino administration, said that had Edsa II not ended peacefully on Jan. 20, 2001, the attempted power grab might have ended with the assassination of President Joseph Estrada.

Maligalig said it was Sen. Gregorio Honasan, believed to be the brains behind last month's Oakwood mutiny, who hatched the coup plot against the Estrada administration and even offered to kill Estrada at the 11th hour.

Maligalig said he could not reconcile the fact that Honasan, who together with other RAMboys endorsed Speaker Jose de Venecia for President in 1998, campaigned for Estrada the next day, then decided to acquit Estrada of the impeachment charges and at the same time plotted to oust him.

It was a brainteaser, Maligalig admitted, which he could not easily solve.

Maligalig said he hesitated to reveal this plot early on because it may have just been a figment of Honasan's imagination. More importantly, it was rendered moot by Edsa II.

Reached for comment, Defense Sec. Angelo Reyes admitted that the report of a coup plot against Estrada was one of the considerations why, as the Armed Forces chief of staff then, he joined Edsa II. The main consideration, he

GRINGO/ A19

EDWIN BACASMAS

BEEN there, done that, the mutiny's core group most of whom served in Mindanao for eight years would probably grumble at the sight of GMA decorating Capt. CJ Paolo Perez for the recapture of Edris.

'Mutiny as spontaneous as World Trade Center attack'

A FIRESTORM of protest has swirled around the statement Wednesday by Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV that the mutiny he and his fellows mounted was a "spontaneous display" of their grievances.

"No way" is that true, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told reporters at the Panay Power Plant in La Paz, Iloilo City.

"For anyone to say that the Oakwood incident was a spontaneous mutiny is like saying that the bombing of the World Trade Center [in 2001] was an accident," she said.

Ms Macapagal also said the renegade soldiers' attempt to grab power was evidenced by events before the mutiny as well as their actions and words and the means they employed to air their grievances.

"The conspirators in the coup d' etat have no respect for the intelligence of the Filipino people," she said.

She added that "the truth and the lies are now surfacing," and described the mutiny as "a plain and simple attempt to overthrow the duly constituted government by a civilian-military cabal."

At the Senate, which has been convened into a Committee of the Whole to

MUTINY/ A18

Recruitment of urban poor to support 'F5'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Cynthia D. Balana

"F5"—this is the term intelligence officers use to refer to the five junior military officers who allegedly led the Oakwood mutiny on July 27.

They were hoping that their "audacity" would trigger other factors that would replicate the People Power revolts of 1986 and 2001 that ousted the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada, respectively.

This is why the July 27 mutiny also involved the "large-scale recruitment" of urban poor residents to back the renegade soldiers, the director general of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) said yesterday.

Testifying before the Feliciano Commission, Nica chief Cesar Garcia also said the mutiny staged by the Magdalo group was "part of a larger conspiracy" to topple the government and install a 15-man military junta. He said there were still "military elements to be accounted for" and "civilian components still out there."

"What's clear is ... they're well-funded," he told the commission formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to look into the failed uprising, and which two opposition

RECRUITMENT/ A18

Mutineers freely air their gripes; scolded by senators

By Christine O. Avendaño

IN THEIR first appearance before senators probing the July 27 mutiny, the five mutiny leaders seized the opportunity to air their grievances in full, painting a stark picture of corruption in the military.

But the daylong hearing also took their toll on the junior officers, with some senators scolding the mutineers for outbursts during their testimony and for their refusal to answer key questions.

- Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and Army Capt. Gerardo Gambala said they had acquired two documents detailing an illegal government operation codenamed "Operation Green Base." But opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon got the officers to admit that the two documents were not actually an operation plan. *(See separate story above.)*
- Gambala said the mutiny was merely a "protest action to air what is the truth." But Senate President Franklin Drilon, chairing the hearing of the Senate convened as a committee of the whole, took strong exception to the officer's claim.
- Trillanes said his group considered "most of the generals of the AFP to be corrupt, and therefore they are the enemy." But Drilon, leader of the administration coalition in the Senate, reprimanded him for casting broad aspersions. "We can prove that," Trillanes replied.
- Trillanes and administration Sen. Noli de Castro exchanged heated words during the hearing, when De Castro mistook several vehicles registered under Trillanes' name for the officer's own. Trillanes said these were actually owned by his mother, who runs a rental car business.
- Capt. Gary Alejano, a former member of President Macapagal-Arroyo's security detail, said he could have killed the Pres-

MUTINEERS/ A19

WALA BA AKONG K?

Gambala: Why I chose Oakwood

By Christine O. Avendaño

"WHY can't I stay in a five-star hotel?"

Army Capt. Gerardo Gambala yesterday shot back at Senate President Franklin Drilon, who had asked him why he chose a five-star hotel to hide in from those whom Gambala claimed were "hunting him" down.

Gambala admitted to the Senate

GAMBALA/ A19

Blood compacts real, rebel leader admits

By Michael Lim Ubac

BLOOD was shed after all.

One of the leaders of the Magdalo group of mutineers confirmed yesterday that blood compacts did take place among some of the young rebel officers who took part in the July 27 mutiny at the Oakwood Premier in Makati City.

Under questioning at the Senate by opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Capt. Gerardo Gambala admitted that between five and six junior officers took part in blood compacts at different times and venues, as an "assurance" of their "commitment, (that) they're against corruption," and to prove their "loyalty to God, country and the people."

"To tell you the truth, I was the one who instigated the blood compact," Gambala admitted.

During the first Senate hearing into the mutiny last week, the new intelligence chief of the Armed Forces Pedro Cabuay said a blood compact had taken place among the mutineers on June 12.

BLOOD/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds blowing from the southwest will prevail throughout the archipelago and the coastal waters will be slight to moderate.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/15/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
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Second FRONTPAGE

GMA to Gringo: Come out and face the music

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called on opposition Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan to come out of hiding and answer charges that he was involved in the July 27 failed coup.

"His companions are already rendering testimony in full view and hearing of the public and it does not speak well of a senator to be hiding from justice as well as the scrutiny of his own peers," the President said in a statement.

"Playing hide and seek will not help his claim to innocence," the President said.

The Philippine National Police said it was puzzled by Honasan's so-called "inaccessibility" when there was no order for the police to go after him.

"There is no reason for him to hide," said Director Ricardo de Leon, the PNP spokesperson and Honasan's classmate at the Philippine Military Academy.

The junior officers who led the takeover by rebellious soldiers of the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati on July 27 have begun testifying in a Senate inquiry and the investigation of the Feliciano commission into the failed coup.

Col. Delfin Bangit, the chief of the Presidential Security Group, presented the other day two photographs that allegedly showed that Honasan and Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes, one of the junior officers, participated in a blood compact ritual which supposedly sealed the coup plot.

Bangit said the photographs, which were allegedly taken on June 13, was given to him last week by a soldier who claimed to be "morally bothered."

"I assure the people that the wheels of justice will unravel and expose the full length and breadth of this conspiracy and exact full retribution from those who led it," the President said yesterday.

"Democracy will be redeemed and upheld over dictatorship," she said.

In several interviews, Honasan claimed that he was not in hiding but was simply "inaccessible."

He had promised to surface once the government's declaration of a state of rebellion was lifted.

The President did so last Monday but Honasan has yet to keep his word.

De Leon said if a policeman were to spot Honasan, the senator would not be arrested since there is no warrant against him.

He said the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group had no order from Malacañang to monitor Honasan's movements despite the absence of an arrest warrant.

"(Honasan) is just being invited by the Department of Justice to shed light on the accusations against him," he said.

Answering criticisms that Malacañang was subjecting Honasan and the mutineers to a trial by publicity, Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday said the photographs allegedly showing Honasan meeting with Trillanes and other mutinous officers were presented to rebut Trillanes' claim that he never met with Honasan.

In a press briefing yesterday, Bunye said no one was preventing Honasan from contesting the authenticity of the photographs.

But he said the government was confident that the photographs would be proven authentic in court.

"This will be authenticated at the proper time," Bunye said.

Bangit said the photographs clearly showed Honasan talking with Trillanes, with a blood-stained Philippine flag and the standard of the Magdalo group by which the mutineers called themselves in the background. *Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christian V. Esguerra*

Ebdane visit sparks more Al-Ghozi talk

THE PHILIPPINE National Police chief's quiet visit to Mindanao over the weekend has fanned speculation that Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi is now under government custody.

Camp Crame insiders claimed the trip was a strong indication that the Indonesian bomb specialist had been recaptured.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. was supposedly accompanied by members of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team, believed to be leading the hunt for Al-Ghozi and Abu Sayyaf member Omar Opik Lasal.

Abdulmukim Ong Edris who, with Al-Ghozi and Lasal, bolted Camp Crame last July 14, was gunned down last week.

It was rumored that Ebdane would meet with Al-Ghozi before the fugitive was presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Reports of the recapture was boosted when the President herself went to Kabuntalan, Maguindanao yesterday.
Christian V. Esguerra

NEWSBRIEFS

'Safe enough to travel'

FOR THE FIRST time since facing down a coup attempt, President Macapagal-Arroyo is leaving the country to keynote the 15th general meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council in Brunei on Sept. 3.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal felt it was safe enough to travel outside the country following the July 27 mutiny by junior military officers. Besides, he said, the President would be gone only a few hours.

Ms Macapagal will have a one-on-one meeting with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah. "Afterwards she'll return to Manila," Bunye said.

US peace monitors arrive

COTABATO CITY—United States officials who will monitor the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front arrived here on Wednesday.

The US officials arrived a day before President Macapagal-Arroyo's scheduled visit to Maguindanao, where a massive manhunt for escaped terrorist bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi is ongoing.

Airport squatters must go

FOR BEING a security hazard to aircraft, the squatter colony near an international runway in Parañaque City would have to go, Ninoy Aquino International Airport general manager Edgardo Manda said yesterday.

The target of relocation are the 1,000 squatters living in close proximity to Runway 06-24 at the south end of the airport complex just behind the exclusive Multinational Village.

Bank charged

THE STANDARD Chartered Bank was charged yesterday with money laundering before the Anti-Money Laundering Council by one of its own officers.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez filed the charges in behalf of his client, Manuel Baviera, the head of SCB's HR Service Delivery and Industrial Relations for its Philippine branch, who claimed he himself had fallen victim to the bank's alleged illegal activities.

The bank allegedly illegally sold unregistered securities consisting of overseas mutual funds to Filipinos without permission from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SCB, however, refuted Baviera's allegations. "We absolutely reject the allegations made ... I am sure numerous agencies will investigate the baseless allegations and the truth will come out in due course," said Stanchart chief executive for the Philippines Simon Morris.

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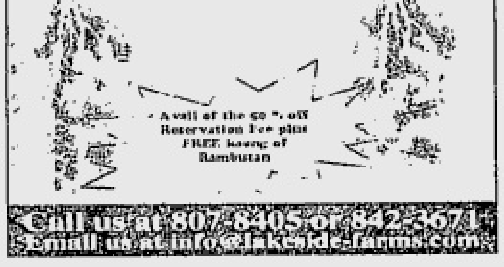
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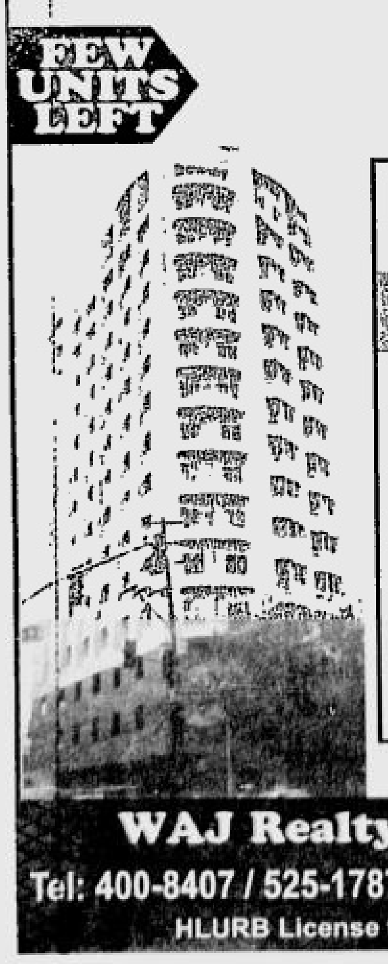

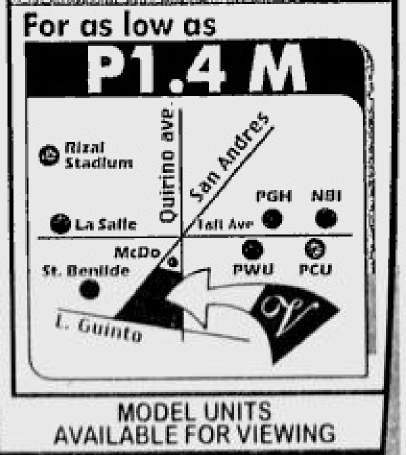

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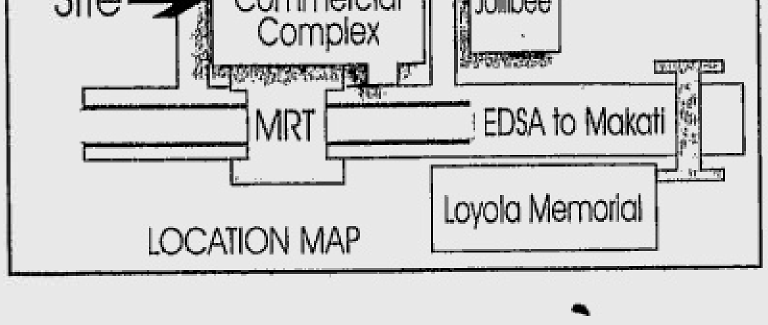

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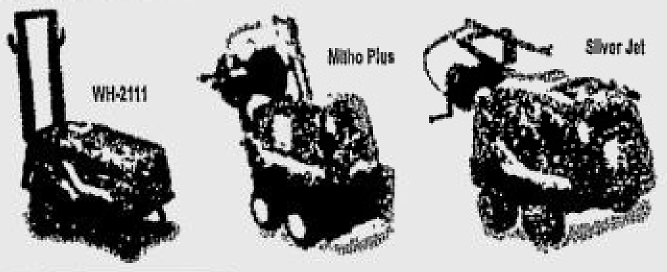

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b. Incontinence
c. Insomnia
d. Migraine

2. For a dose of laughter, you read...
a. Job Market
b. Comic relief
c. Obituary
d. Motoring

3. Who portrays Buffy the Vampire Slayer on TV?
a. Sarah Michelle Gellar
b. Alyssa Milano
c. Reese Witherspoon
d. Sarah Jessica Parker

4. Who sang the jingle for the new Close Up commercial?
a. Nyoy Volante
b. Jimmy Bondoc
c. Paolo Santos
d. Paolo Montalban

5. Which young actor is Demi Moore dating?
a. Ashton Kutcher
b. Jason Biggs
c. Colin Farrell
d. Leonardo DiCaprio

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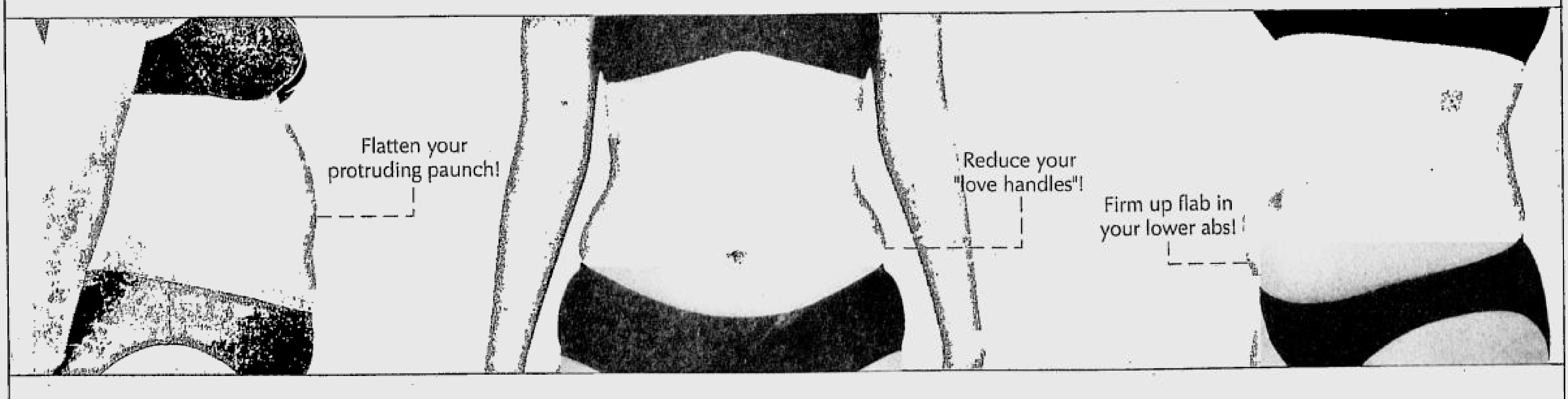
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Escaped Navy mutineer recaptured in Baclaran after 4 days

AN ALLEGED mutineer from the Navy's elite Special Warfare Group (SWAG) who escaped from custody in Cavite City last Monday has been recaptured, the military said.

Fireman 1st Engineman Alex del Valle was arrested at the Baclaran church at about 1 a.m. on Thursday by a team from Naval Intelligence and the SWAG, according to Navy information officer Commander Geronimo Malabanan.

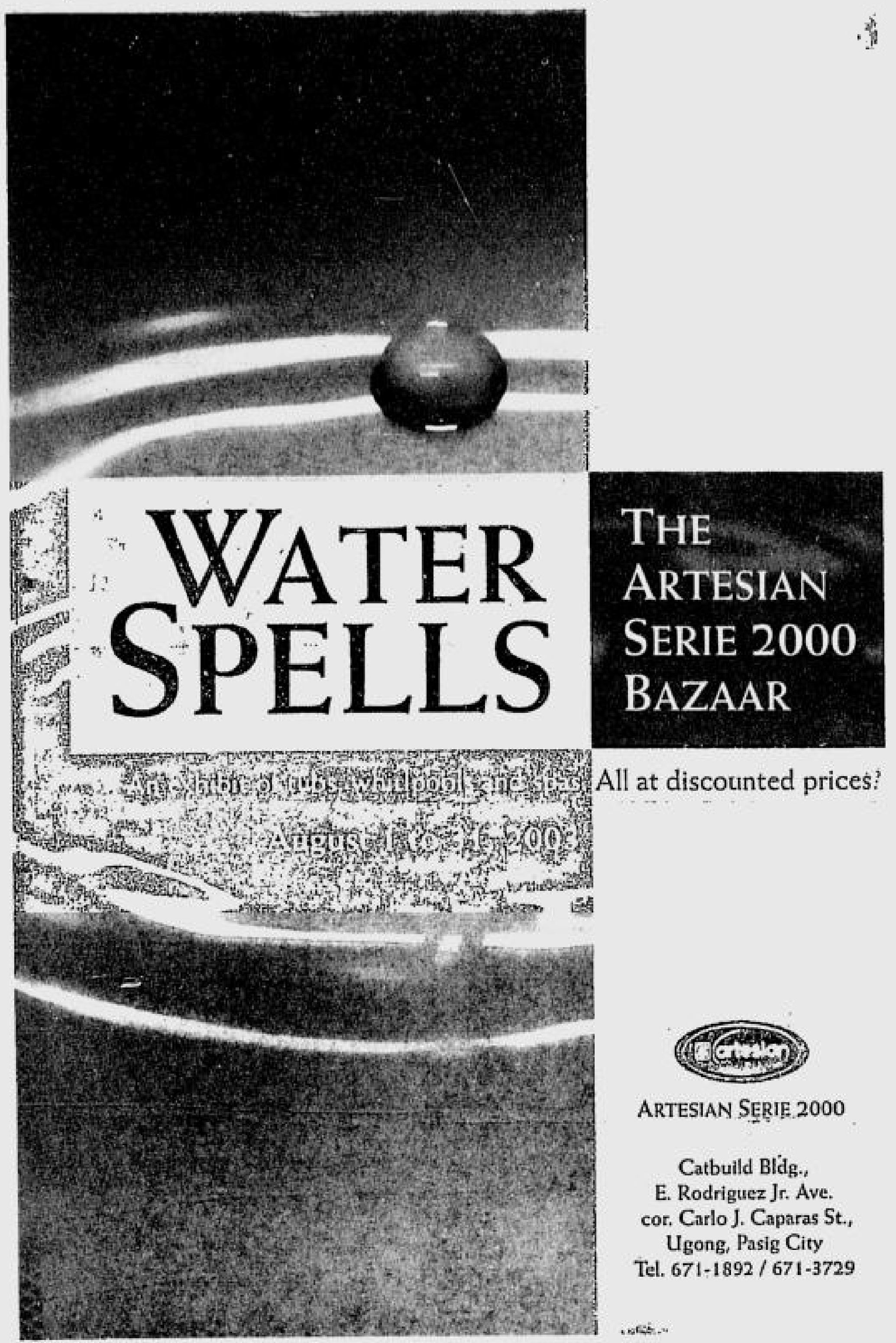
"It was a half-arrest, half-surrender," Malabanan said in a phone interview.

Del Valle was captured partly because he continued to maintain contact with his mother unit, Malabanan said.

He said Del Valle could have decided against going into hiding lest he be discharged dishonorably.

Del Valle was returned to the Naval Base custodial center at Fort San Felipe in Cavite and is now undergoing tactical interrogation to establish the reasons for his escape.

The 26-year-old corporal bolted the custodial center at around 7 a. m. on Sunday by scaling the cyclone wire-topped fence. *TJ Burgonio*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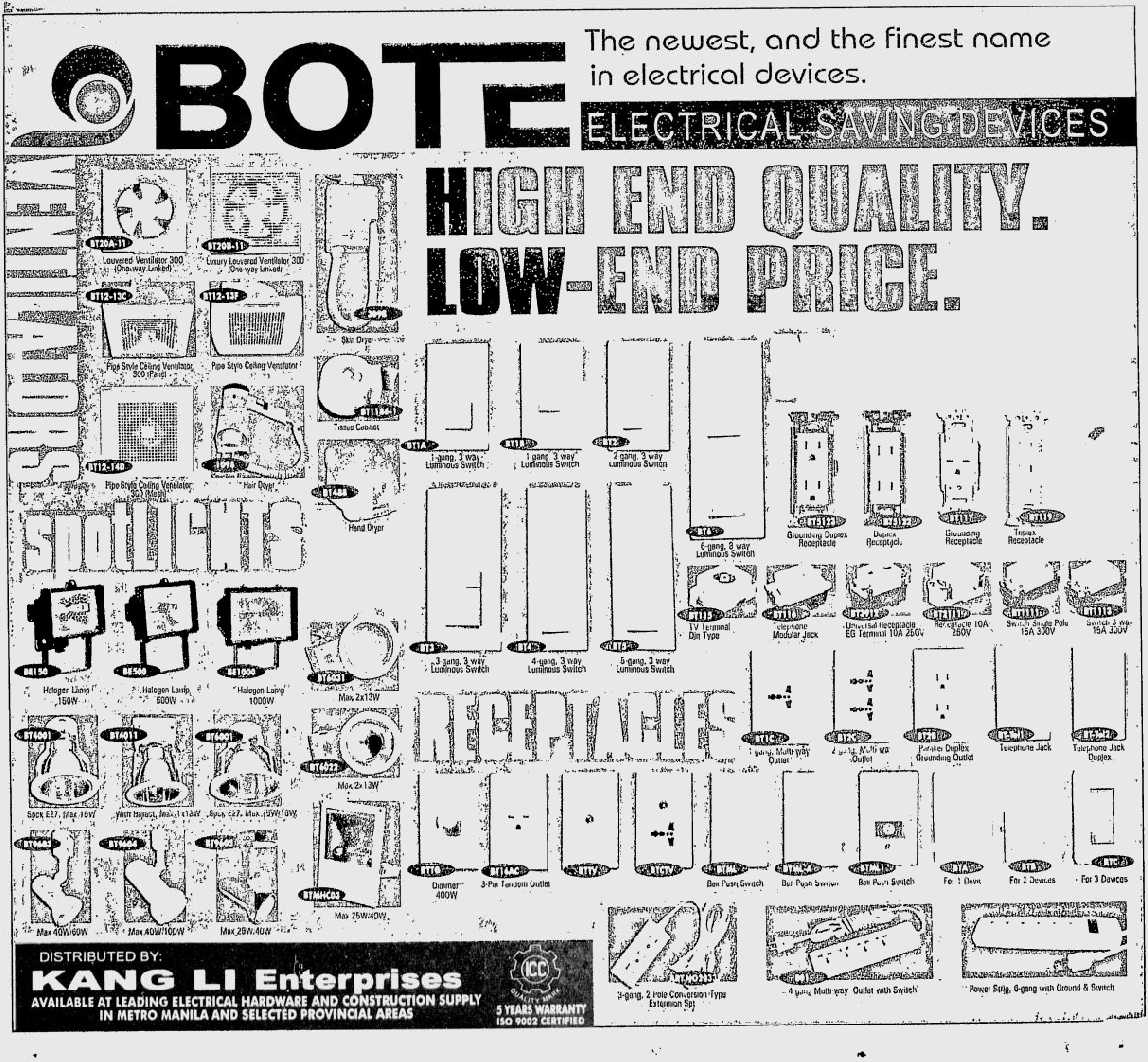
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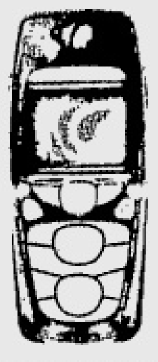

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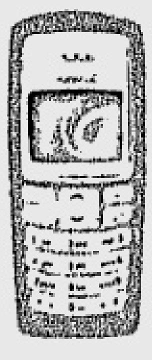

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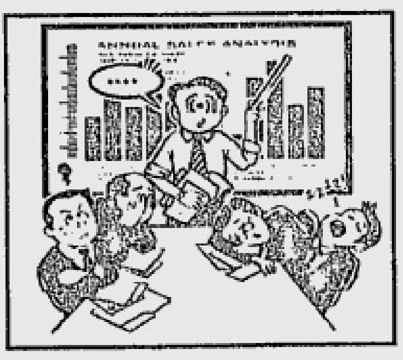

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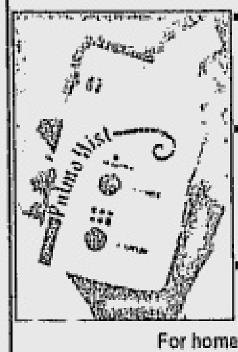

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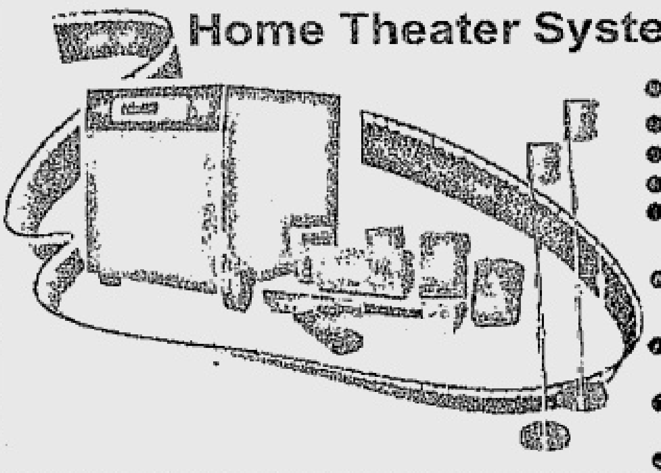

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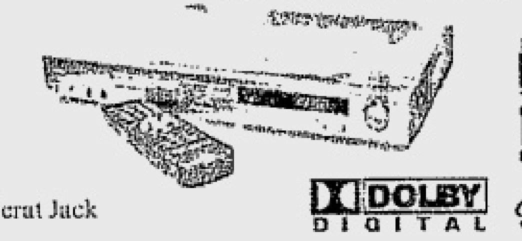

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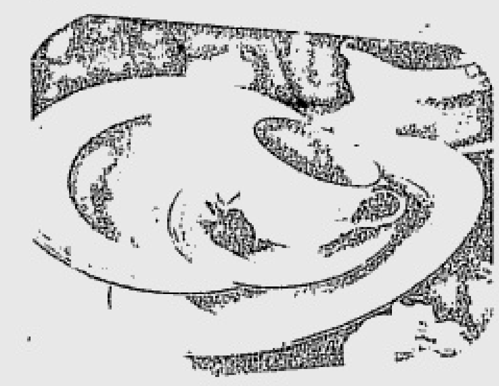

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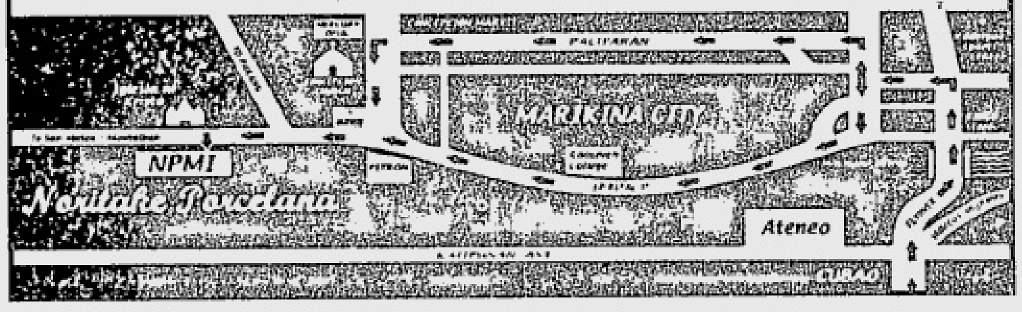

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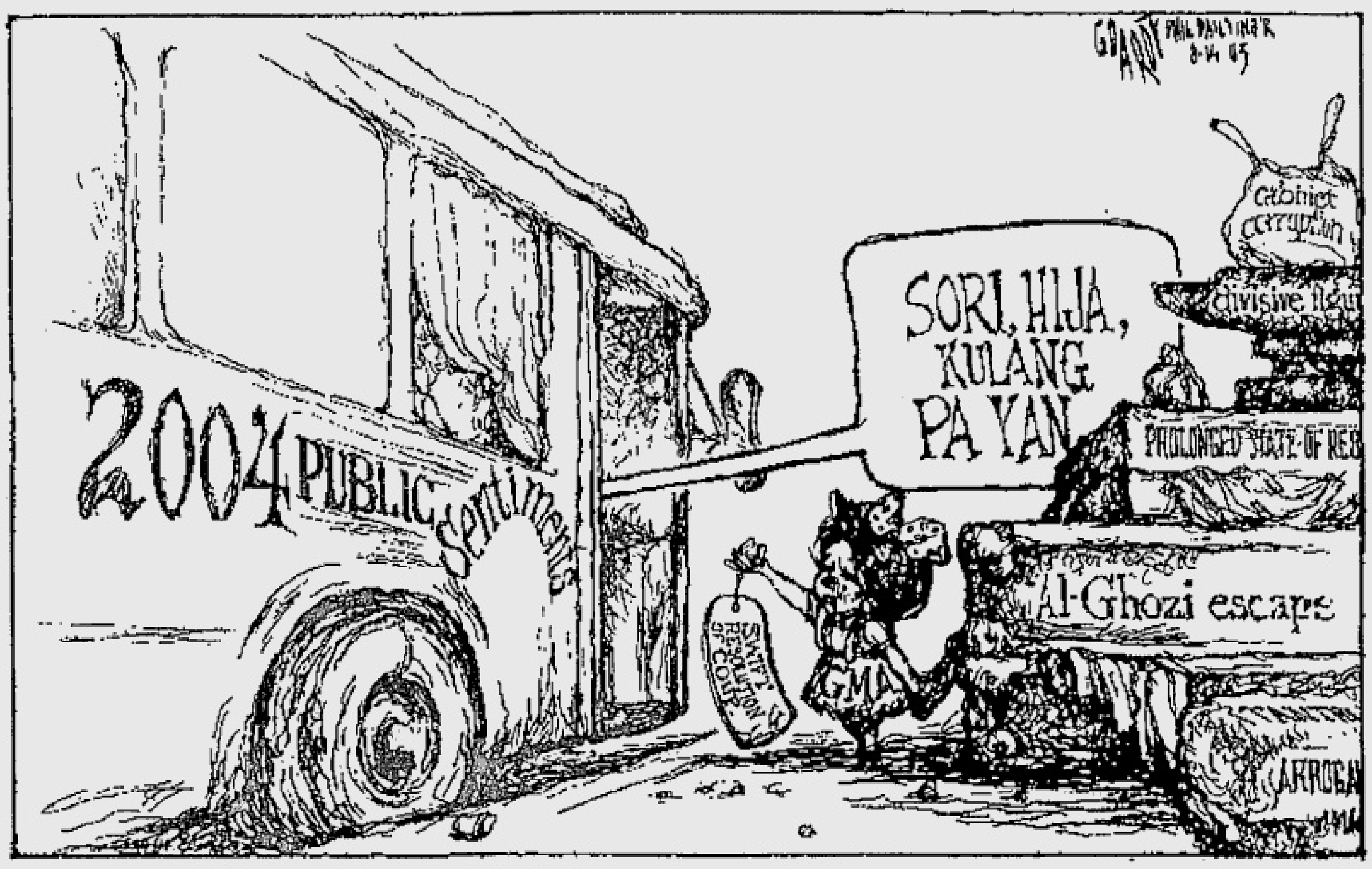


Conspiracy of silence

EDITORIAL

THE OCCUPATION of the Oakwood Premier hotel last July 27 was nothing more serious or threatening than a lawful exercise of the citizens' right to gather in a peaceful assembly, according to the young military officers who led the failed coup. "The Oakwood incident was a spontaneous display of our grievances," the spokesperson of the renegade military officers, Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV, told the Feliciano Commission Wednesday. "We expressed our message directly to the people."

So why did they call for the resignation of the President if they did not intend to exercise power themselves? It was "just like all the demonstrations," organized by the Left where they demand the resignation of all government officials, Trillanes said.

This was no different from the line thrown by their idol and mentor, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, during the one and only time he was able to gather the courage to show himself in public, two days after the failed coup. Honasan then said that the military officers were simply airing their gripes and if they did so while armed that was because firearms were the "tools of their trade." A section of the Left agreed, with some party-list representatives dismissing the armed uprising as nothing more than a press conference.

All of them are, of course, insulting the intelligence of the people whose interests they claim to champion.

The young military officers and their men—all 296 of them—went to Oakwood armed to the teeth. They planted bombs all around the commercial complex and threatened to blow up everything if attacked by forces loyal to the government. They held the entire nation hostage supposedly to get their grievances off their chests, and now they expect the government to believe it was all a drama?

Obviously this story about a "spontaneous" press conference or "Oakwood incident," or whatever they want to call it, is a defense strategy the rebels have developed with the help of their lawyers. But it is so full of holes they better come up with another tale if they want to save their necks. They would be foolish to think they can fool all the people all the time.

Forty-five military officers and 251 soldiers cannot just bump into each other in a hotel located in the country's business district. Certainly not in full battle gear, and not when some of them have to come all the way from Mindanao. Stocking up all those armaments, ammunition and bombs could not have been done instantaneously either. Those well-designed armbands worn by the rebel troops could not have been sewn in a day or two. (The white armbands worn by loyal soldiers looked like rags in comparison.) And what about those houses in Dasmariñas Village and Mandaluyong that they used as staging areas? Another leader of the group, Capt. Gerardo Gambala, has admitted that he checked into Oakwood three days before the uprising. If all these actions add up to just a single "spontaneous" reaction, then plots and conspiracies do not happen at all.

But a conspiracy to topple the government is the last thing the rebel officers would admit. This is why in all the forums to which they have been invited to testify, they have refused to answer any question that may lead to the identification of their civilian supporters.

At Oakwood, these officers said they were willing to die for the opportunity to tell their story of military betrayal and corruption. Now that they have so many forums to do so, why don't they also tell the full story of their failed rebellion? Certainly they would look less self-sacrificing and heroic if they were to admit that they had been manipulated by some master puppeteer. But this conspiracy of silence will only save the others with whom they had conspired to commit treason.

Breakthrough

FOREIGN COMMENT

SIX nations—North and South Korea, the United States, China, Russia and Japan—will begin breakthrough discussions as early as next month on North Korea's nuclear development program. Here's the problem: How to conduct six-way talks and attain the final goal of North Korean nuclear disarmament? The more nations involved, the more difficult it will be to reach an agreement.

Conversely, diverse, multilateral diplomacy may bring North Korea to a compromise. It may, for example, be that all nations involved back US guarantees of North Korean security if Pyongyang drops its nuclear program. The meetings will also temper the Bush administration's tendency toward unilateral action.

Washington, however, has complicated matters by failing to specifically explain how it will approach the issue. Japan, South Korea, China and Russia must press the Bush administration to clarify its stance during the talks.

Asahi Shimbun (Tokyo)

Why Pinoys have soft spot for rebels

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AS can be gleaned from the televised hearings of the Feliciano Commission, the defense strategy of the coup leaders is to turn the tables on their accusers. They are selling themselves as the aggrieved party, abused, exploited and underpaid by their superior officers; nobody in the chain of command, up to Malacañang, listens to their grievances. Corruption in the Armed Forces sells guns and bullets to the enemy who use them to kill soldiers. *Kawawa naman kami.*

The people are lapping it up on TV. The rebels are playing to their bleeding hearts. If they cannot win by force of arms and in the courts, they will try to win in the hearts and minds of the public. Already, many people are showing their bias in favor of the rebels.

And even if they fail again in the Feliciano Commission, the rebels will surely use the same strategy in the congressional hearings where they have more sympathizers who will surely grandstand before the cameras, knowing that many in the audience sympathize with the rebels.

Why do the Filipinos have a soft spot for rebels? Because of our beginnings as a nation. Our national heroes were rebels, from Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Aguinaldo (the Makati coup plot was called "Operation Andres," the mutineers called themselves "Magdalo," Aguinaldo's *nom de guerre*, and their flag was adapted from one of the Katipunan flags) back to Diego Silang, Dagohoy and Lapu-Lapu.

During the revolutionary days it was patriotic to fight the Spanish or American colonizers, the embodiment of the abuses and injustices committed on the hapless Filipinos.

During the Japanese Occupation, it was patriotic to be a *guerrillero* fighting the Japanese and the people sympathized, helped and cheered. In the 1986 People Power Revolution against Marcos, the people also sympathized and helped the rebels because Marcos personified the abuses and injustices of his dictatorship. Thus, we have a culture that is pro-rebel.

Even in our literature and entertainment, rebels are usually the heroes: Elias in Rizal's "El Filibusterismo," the *katipuneros* in the famous *zarzuela* "Walang Sugat" and the many other rebel-heroes in subsequent novels and short stories. In the movies, the most popular movie actors portrayed the roles of rebels. Fernando Poe Jr. and, yes, Joseph Estrada, played many characters with many names that at heart were really of one kind, a humble hero, abused for two-thirds of the movie until he could not take any more and, in the last third, turns into a rebel and wreaks vengeance on his tormentors.

The young Ramon Revilla was a so-so supporting actor in the sunset of his career when he stumbled on a newspaper story on the life of a notorious Cavite outlaw, Nardong Putik. He made a movie based on that newspaper story and suddenly, he became a superstar. In movie after movie, Revilla hewed to the same formula—making a biopic of some notorious outlaw or police character. The stories, of course, took liberties with the truth to portray the heroes as criminals with hearts of gold, forced to commit crimes because of the abuses done to them by society. So popular was this formula that it elevated the so-so actor Revilla to the Senate where he became a so-so senator.

Perhaps even without realizing it, the Makati coup leaders are using this same formula to portray themselves as heroes instead of heels. They were the abused and the downtrodden who were forced to rebel to get justice not only for themselves but for the whole Filipino nation. *Yehey!*

Even in the outside world, rebels and revolutionaries are hailed as heroes. Many nations were born of revolutions. The French, Russian and American revolutions are the classic examples. More are being born every decade, because of people's yearning for independence. But Che Guevara popularized the notion that revolutions can succeed even without the support of the people, and many so-called "liberation fronts," are trying to make this theory come true.

But there is a difference between a revolution and a coup d'etat, which is what a power grab without popular support is. In a revolution, the people genuinely want to ditch the ruling powers. But in a coup, it is only a handful of ambitious military officers who want to grab power.

Modern technology has given birth to another form of revolution: terrorism. The state of Israel was reborn with the help of terrorism;. the early Israel leaders were terrorists. Same with the neighboring Palestinian state.

There are countries which actually export terrorism, the first among them being Libya. The al-Qaida of Osama bin Laden, not coming from any one country, is operating all over the world. Our own rebels, from the New People's Army to the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, are also getting outside help.

The 1986 People Power revolt was probably aided by the United States; it is possible the recent Makati mutiny was, too.

The trouble is that coups, once started in a country, become a habit, as they are now in the Philippines. It is so easy for ambitious military officers—and for unscrupulous politicians—to mount a coup because they have the guns. That is how governments keep changing in South America and Africa, the home continents of banana republics.

Will the Philippines be the first banana republic in Asia?

Perspectives

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE is one side effect of the coup we may be thankful for—it has restored our perspective on things. In case you haven't noticed, since the coup took place, there hasn't been any talk of the "war against terror." Not of its prosecution, not of its progress, not of nearing its presumed goal of keeping the country safe for democracy. Its disappearance has been as sudden and dramatic as its onset.

The only thing remotely connected with it that has landed in the newspapers and television over the last three weeks is the sightings of Al-Ghozi here and there. Which has taken on the aspect of sightings of UFOs and Elvis Presley. But Al-Ghozi himself is not good news for the "war against terror." On the contrary, he is living proof of what Fr. Cirilo Nacorda of Basilan has been saying all along. That the "war" is absolutely literally a *moro-moro* being waged by the AFP for its own benefit. A "war" where the enemy routinely gets to escape lest the pursuers end up with nothing left to pursue.

The other thing that has changed in this respect is that the public has become a lot more distrustful, if not downright cynical, about what government is feeding them. Since GMA unleashed her "war against terror" a couple of years ago, all the public had to go by to follow its progress was her and her generals' word. The generals could say the Abu Sayyaf was overrunning Mindanao and no one would be the wiser for it. Certainly, no one could challenge it. No one could enter Basilan and environs presumably for security purposes. The image I have in mind of the people reporting the state of affairs there is that of Alan Rickman in "Die Hard" throwing around the names of several terrorist groups while negotiating with the authorities, and telling an incredulous aide ("Asian Dawn"?), "I read about them in Time Magazine."

Critics could always be attacked as communists, traitors to the country, or worse terrorist sympathizers, if not terrorists themselves. This was a season of frenzied flag-waving, and reducing the world to "either you are with us or against us." GMA expressly made that pitch, echoing her idol, George Bush.

The secrecy and silence have backfired, as they did in Marcos' time. During Marcos' time, the people fought back with the only two weapons they could muster: rumor and humor. The rumors about Al-Ghozi have taken on the weirdest and funniest turns. Before the Sona, I heard a lot of talk that the authorities had him all along and were going to turn him into a show-and-tell about GMA's accomplishments. The willingness of the public to take government's word then in the face of lack of evidence has been replaced by their willingness not to do so now even in the face of evidence. I won't bother to repeat the text jokes.

Indeed, as our story on Salamat Hashim last weekend in Across the Nation shows, we can look again without the blinders of the "war against terror" at what's really happening in Mindanao. The story was a eulogy of sorts written by Aquiles Zonio following the reported death of Salamat last July. The portrait that appears there is not that of a terrorist, it is that of a revolutionary. You may not agree with his ideology or aims, but you may not doubt his integrity and principle. This is not an ignoble enemy, this is an honorable one. Which brings us back to the stupidity, and cynicism, of reducing Moro grievances, which have been the cause of their restiveness, into religious fanaticism or terrorist bloodlust.

If the coup has done anything good, it is to remind us again, amid all the delusion and paranoia spread by the "war against terror," of certain fundamental truths about this country. Chief of them that the real threats to this country's democracy do not come from external forces or rebellious or fringe groups. They come from the state itself. They come primarily in those instances when "national security" has taken on overriding importance, sweeping everything in its path. That has unfailingly produced the most unsavory—indeed, terroristic—results.

Democracy is the last thing to issue from it. I've said it repeatedly: Entrusting the future of democracy in the hands of Angelo Reyes, Roilo Golez, Rodrigo Duterte, Wahab Akbar and kindred spirits, people whose fortunes thrive on war and war-mongering, is like entrusting the future of a shoe factory to Imelda Marcos.

The coup has shown further the monumental dangers of it. Amid secrecy and silence, the generals can be free to concoct anything. The charge that government itself authored the bombings in Davao won't go away, given in particular the public's current disbelief, if not distrust, of GMA's word. The coup moreover shows how suicidal that whole notion of using the military to sandbag the freedoms of this country is, which has been the premise of the "war against terror" all along. A premise that has been propagated by a barrage of movies, TV series and other powerful agents of popular culture. A premise that has transformed the heels of yesterday into the heroes of today without them having to do anything.

The coup refutes all that. It says the presumed saviors of today remain pretty much the tormentors of yesterday. It says the military remains the same institution riven—like the society itself—into a privileged few and impoverished many, plagued by corruption and demoralization, alternating between persecution and ambition. It says the natural trajectory of the militarization of national life is not keeping this country safe from terrorists, it is keeping this country safe for tyrants.

We don't learn that lesson, we deserve a coup again and again.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Negative coup impact on business confidence

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE FAILED July 27 coup attempt has shaken business confidence and hopes of the economy seeing improvement in the next months. The slump of confidence is mirrored by the BW-Roper ASW Business Confidence Index drawn from a survey, conducted before and after the coup, of 300 respondents who work for the leading 700 corporations in the country.

The index reflects businessmen's uncertainties over the economic and political climate that was muddled by the coup attempt, the first ever to rock the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Highlights of the index include: (1) the BCI fell to 90.6 percent on July 30—three days after the coup—from 91.3 percent on June 22; (2) present situation index dropped to 93.1 percent on July 30 from 97.4 percent on June 22; and (3) 41.7 percent said current business conditions are bad, up from 37.7 percent on June 22, while 21 percent said current business conditions are good, down from 26.3 percent on June 22.

The survey reflects a bleak outlook. Only 40.7 percent said the economy will prosper under President Macapagal, compared to 46.3 percent on June 22. More companies (9.3 percent) will invest less after the coup against 8 percent on June 22. Fewer respondents (19.7 percent) believe the stock market will improve in the next six months, compared with 22.7 percent on June 22; and 41.7 percent believe that the peso value will get worse in the next six months, compared with 30.7 percent on June 22. The coup dented confidence in the President's rating of doing a good job. Exactly 61 percent said—after the coup—she was doing a good job, compared to 63.3 percent the previous month.

The survey reflects the state of uncertainty and the political volatility that was generated by the coup and is less of an indictment of the President's ability to handle a crisis. Part of the uncertainty stems from what some businessmen called the "configuration" of presidential contenders in the 2004 elections and from speculations of whether the President will go back on her Dec. 30 promise not to stand for election in 2004.

The economic impact of the failed coup is far less devastating than that of the previous coups, particularly the 1989 coup that pushed the country to the brink of a civil war and sent the economy to its knees, by setting back economic growth to negative from a high of nearly 7 percent in December of that year.

Fortunately, the impact of the July 27 coup, which was quashed without a shot being fired, was limited to shattering confidence in the economic outlook in the run-up to the 2004 elections. The lesson that stands out is that any coup—bloody or not—always creates political and economic uncertainty, and sets back economic growth or recovery. Coups, never mind if staged in the name of "national salvation," are the equivalent of shooting the economy on the foot while in the midst of a competition for economic development among Asian economies. Most of the Southeast Asian economies have not been shaken by recurrent coups as the Philippines, a hot house of political instability.

It does not help to calm business, anxieties and restore confidence by claiming that the "economic fundamentals" remain strong. We cannot talk of "strong economic fundamentals" in the midst of a serious political turbulence. Businessmen do not think of economic fundamentals in the face of political shocks triggered by armed challenges to government authority. Economic fundamentals are irrelevant to businessmen whose primary concern is whether the government can ensure political stability and control armed challenges.

Whether or not the tough response of the government to the coup—highlighted by the filing of coup charges against the renegade soldiers and their civilian allies—is enough to reassure the business community, will remain a question for some time to come. Restoration of confidence in the ability of the government to put rebellions under control will depend on its success in cracking down on the plotters and rooting out the tentacles of the coup.

Business confidence depends as well on the coherence of the political organs of government, the legislature, especially, in closing ranks to stamp out the threats of military rebellions which seek to destroy the democratic constitutional order and replace it with a dictatorship by the junta. The capacity to respond to an armed assault on the constitutional system is on test in the ongoing investigations—including those being conducted by the independent Feliciano Commission and Congress—looking into the underlying causes of the rebellion used by renegade officers as an arena for inflaming public opinion against constitutional authority, under the excuse of expressing grievances.

Among the emerging democracies of Southeast Asia, not excluding Indonesia, the Philippines has the most unruly military as undisciplined as the political sector, which thrives in a confrontational and adversarial culture being perpetuated as an exercise of political democracy.

Are we serious about reform?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SOMETIMES, I wonder how serious we are, as a people, about reforming our government. Sure, we've demonstrated our "love" for reform and disgust with graft and corruption in quite dramatic ways, like launching not one but two "People Power" revolts to overthrow unpopular and unworthy governments. Most recently, a few hundred disgruntled officers and troops scared the bejesus out of us one Sunday morning when they camped out at the Oakwood hotel to "air their grievances."

But when serious efforts at reform are undertaken—not dramatic or sensational, to be sure, but promising, realistic and "doable" measures—to cleanse our institutions of graft and corruption, people either ignore them or raise dubious side issues to derail them.

At the moment, there are several legislative initiatives in the pipeline meant to rationalize the operations of key government agencies, most of which have been identified as "centers" of graft and corruption. In other countries, perhaps, such measures would be greeted with acclaim and loud proclamations of public support. But in the Philippines, such promising bills are greeted with indifference at best, and those who do pay attention to them are either grandstanding for political purposes or just looking out for their selfish interests.

One of these is a bill seeking to create the National Revenue Authority (NRA) which would in essence replace the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). The NRA bill consolidates two previous measures: HB 5465 creating the National Authority for Revenue Administration (Nara) sponsored by Reps. Joel Villanueva, Etta Rosales, Butch Abad, Del de Guzman, Maite Defensor and Nereus Acosta; and HB 5054 creating the Internal Revenue Management Authority (Irma) authored by Speaker Joe de Venecia and Representatives Julio Ledesma IV, Neptali Gonzalez Jr., Nonoy Andaya and Ace Barbers.

* * *

THE CONSOLIDATED bill seeks to create a new revenue collecting agency with the following features: fiscal and administrative autonomy (to free it from political influence), selection and appointment of boards, preferential absorption of current BIR employees, exemption from the Salary Standardization Law (to attract the "best and the brightest" to the agency), and transparency.

According to groups following the process, the most contentious issue thus far is the fate of current BIR employees. The Irma bill proposed that all BIR employees would be terminated upon the dissolution of the BIR. In reaction, the BIR employees demanded separation pay of up to five months for every year of service. The Nara bill, on the other hand, proposed a "preferential absorption" of BIR employees, meaning, all BIR employees who want to remain with the agency would be required to re-apply and, all things being equal, preference would be given to them, assuming that he or she passes "some sort of integrity check."

The substitute bill contained the "preferential absorption" clause, but at a recent hearing of the committee on appropriations, "preferential absorption" was substituted with "full absorption," meaning, all BIR employees would be deemed transferred to the NRA. This would, of course, render the reform measure meaningless, because how could the same people, who had turned the BIR into a den of corruption, be expected to clean up their ranks and win back the trust of the public? As they say on the streets: "*Ano ba ito? Lokohan*" (What's this? A joke?)

* *

THERE'S a similar situation in relation to legislative measures meant to address the confusing and indeed, corruption-ridden process of titling both public and private lands. The Land Administration Reform Bill, authored in the House by Representatives Neptali Gonzales Jr. and Francis Escudero and in the Senate by Senators Edgardo Angara and Robert Jaworski, seeks to consolidate the work of the many agencies engaged in issuing land titles—the Land Registration Authority, the Registry of Deeds, Land Management Bureau, DENR-CARP Secretariat and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority—into one agency to be called the Land Administration Authority.

A study conducted by the Department of Budget and Management reveals that there are overlapping and even contradictory laws and policies covering the process of issuing land titles in the country. The welter of agencies and the confusing policies have resulted in about P100 billion in unrealized revenues for government, in unnecessarily complicated processes, in the growing number of conflicting land claims and in the proliferation of fake titles.

* *

CLEARLY, there's need to cut through the red tape and put some order and rationality into the land titling process.

But it seems that one of the major stumbling blocks to the successful enactment of the LAR Bill is the concern raised by some 7,000 employees who fear the prospect of losing their jobs with the creation of the new agency.

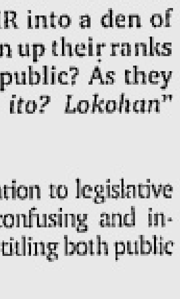
From my point of view, if the reason for the creation of the LAA is to streamline the land titling process, then it's obvious there's a lot of redundancy and inefficiency in the existing agencies. Why would a single, rationalized agency need as many personnel as a cluster of agencies which were duplicating each other's functions? Clearly, some people will have to go. Assuring them that they would all be retained, again, renders the reform measure meaningless.

We, as a people, have to decide one way or another whether we're serious about instituting reforms in government, and whether we are willing to shoulder the sacrifices required for such reforms.

August reflections

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



WHILE August is a time of rain and floods in Manila, it is a time of heat and humidity in Kyoto. Another difference is that Filipinos remember their dead on Nov. 1 which the Roman Catholic Calendar designated as the Feast of All Saints. All Souls Day is really Nov. 2 but nobody minds. In Kyoto the souls are remembered in August. On the night of the 17th, one side of five designated hills around the city will be set on fire, the flames forming the huge character "Dai" (not "die") seen all over town. To make this pyrotechnic display more spectacular Kyoto dims its lights. This is not *kaingin*, rather it is believed the souls of the dead return to earth on this day and, to make sure they don't get lost, the bonfires are lit to guide them back to the city where they once lived and to the people they have known and loved.

I was inspired into a reflection on mortality because the most unique birthday present I received last Wednesday was a beautifully crafted cookie jar made from aged Romblon marble. While meant to keep my Chips Ahoy and Oreos safe from ants and humidity, I envision it as an urn for my ashes. This jar, hand-carried all the way from Romblon, now adorns my desk in the same spirit that medieval scholars had a skull on their desks. *Memento mori*, literally a reminder of death, humbled the scholar and pushed him to work since life and time were limited. With those morbid thoughts, I browsed through last wills and testaments, settling on those made by heroes. Mabini wrote:

"At Presidio de Asan, Island of Guam, July 11, 1902, I, Apolinario Mabini, legitimate son of Inocencio Mabini and Dionisia Maranan, state the following:

"In case that because of the illness I have been suffering, I should cease to exist, I do by these presents express my last will to my brothers as if it were my last testament.

"I declare that I do not have many properties to leave. I, however, recommend that what little I have, be it what it may, be turned over to my brother Prudencio Mabini as a remembrance of mine in consideration of the care he administered to me during the illness and the participation he had in my suffering.

"I beseech my other brothers not to feel offended with the foregoing disposition because I do not find a worthy manner of rewarding the services of the mentioned Prudencio. I know that I would not regret to bequeath you and which could be as a memory to all those whom I owe favors. Since it is the will of God, let us resign ourselves to it."

After signing and dating his last will and testament, he added:

"P. S. I beg all my prison companions, especially Don Pablo Ocampo, Julian Gerona and Norberto Dimayuga, to negotiate with the American authorities of the Island the return to the Philippines of my brother Prudencio Mabini by the first transport that passes after my demise. If my mentioned brother prefers to stay in Agana until the arrival of the transport, please favor him by negotiating it also.

"Hoping that you will not fail to attend to this last request, I die at peace. I sign this on the same date and place above-mentioned."

Mabini died in Manila, not Guam in 1903. Now, compare the above secular will with that of Father Burgos:

"In the name of Almighty God, Amen. May it be known publicly that I, Jose A. Burgos, priest, cura of San Pedro Parish, Manila, Interim Magistral Prebend of the Cathedral Church, 35 years of age, native of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Son of Don Tiburcio Burgos and Doña Florentina Garcia (both deceased), with sound mind and clear conscience believing and confessing the ineffable Mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three Distinct Persons and One God, of the Incarnation and other mysteries which our Holy Mother Church, Roman and Apostolic, believes and professes, as well as that of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary under whose special protection and of all saints, I commend my soul. I hereby order my testament in the following manner:

"1. I recommend my soul to God our Lord who created it out of nothing and I wish that my cadaver return to dust from where it was formed.

"2. I bequeath to the pious foundations my alms or any amount as may be the usual custom.

"3. I appoint and instruct my sister, Doña Antonia Burgos, residing in this capital, as the only heir of all my property, so that she could inherit and enjoy them with the blessings of God and mine.

"4. I appoint as testamentary executor, my sister Doña Antonia Burgos, to whom I give my ample power, so that upon my death, she could take possession of all my property and comply at once to what I have disposed in this testament and effectively, I put here as an insertion: I put off the legal year of executorship, so that she could carry on with this duty free from any kind of bond.

"5. Presently, I revoke and annul any other testamentary disposition which might have been executed before this one, be it written or oral, in any manner, since I wish that only this testament would be the one which should be valid, be complied in all its provisions as my last and deliberate will, or in the manner prescribed by Law."

Both follow legal form but each reflects the personality and context of the writer. Mabini did not foresee the exact date of his death but Burgos executed a will on Feb. 16, 1872, a day before his life was terminated by the garrote.

* *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Reining in the coup plotters

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—Winnie Monsod, on top of my list for spunkiness, as usual went for the jugular. She hit it on the mark when she said all this talk about idealism leaves her stone cold. Just make sure, Winnie, you don't fall stone dead.

She was absolutely right to point out that millions upon millions of Filipinos have the same legitimate grievances over time, probably more compelling than the ones the putschists have advanced. What will it take to make the plotters realize that their so-called idealism borders on arrogance, or is a pretext, as Winnie points out further, to mitigate the gravity of their actions?

Besides, as was already pointed out by other irate observers, corruption, the top grievance, is endemic and has been there since anyone can remember. Why didn't the putschists strike during the time of President Ramos, for instance, or especially during Erap's short-lived tenure when corruption plus a slew of more insidious things were the order of the day? Is there something in the order of sexism here, considering that a spate of coup or destabilization attempts also attended the presidency of Cory Aquino, another female president? Was the underlying agenda in the July 27 uprising to embarrass another female President to show she is not in control, especially now that the presidential season has come?

That aside, some observers have also speculated on what these supposedly idealistic military officers learn in schools, such as the Philippine Military Academy, when they were cadets. While this is an interesting point, it might be a false question because if they are all subject to the same curriculum and training, why do some graduates become more restive than others when they start serving the military?

When Marcos imposed his dictatorship, pundits were quick to point out that, perhaps, he learned his authoritarian ways from the UP College of Law. He even wrote papers on authoritarianism, some added. True, but the same institution also produced the venerable Jovito Salonga. Where does one draw the line?

When does the politicization of this restive military layer, usually among lower or middle ranks, occur? There are all kinds of theories regarding military socialization.

The 1989 Davide Commission, which studied the coup phenomenon, defines politicization as the process by which military personnel acquire and develop political awareness and inclination to assume functions beyond the sphere of military and national defense. Do they acquire this awareness while in school? Probably yes. Probably no. It's an empirical question. The extreme form of this process, the 1989 commission report adds, is when "they use the arms and resources entrusted to them against the very people and the state they solemnly swore to defend and protect."

So, where does idealism come in? It is interesting to note that the 1989 Report differentiates between "politicized military officers" and "idealist officers." This is an important distinction because we usually equate the more politicized elements in the military with idealism, love of country, patriotism and such other values that they purport to be defending or upholding amid the corruption and moral bankruptcy of a sitting civilian government.

A coup is usually staged by a group of politicized officers who ride on the crest of popular grievances against the existing civilian authority. The element of timing is crucial to a coup attempt. They are thus able to exploit certain military and national issues and in the process secure the support and sympathy of some "idealist officers." The Report continues, "These politicized military officers, who are usually not at the helm of military authority and command, are, in most cases, driven by personal reasons. The idealist officers, on the other hand, believe that whatever they do are in the best interest of the nation."

The politicized military officers, of course, do not just solicit the support of other officers, idealistic or not, when they are planning a coup. They often have the backing of civilian conspirators, as in the case of many Latin American countries where civilian leaders, usually coming from the opposition, often lend advice and support to coup plotters, who would then include these politicians in a "ruling junta" if the coup succeeds.

As the details of the latest caper unfold, some of the elements of the formulation suggested by the 1989 Report seem to hold. Even if he is now a civilian official on the lam, Gringo Honasan is the quintessential politicized military officer enhanced by his perceived charisma. And the idealist officers? Many of them will probably not be named and it's hard to categorize young officer Antonio Trillanes IV, their leader. Is he a real idealist or a naive fool, as some have suggested? In any case, it's hard to believe that the July 27 putsch was a "spontaneous" combustion, if that word can be used, as he claims. Were he and his cohorts unduly or unwittingly exploited by the mesmerizing Honasan and the more experienced, though failed, putschists?

And the civilian connection—how did that play out? We have to wait for the findings of the government investigation, as well as of the recently formed "Oakwood Commission." Every day there's a story coming out, and this could well result in another media circus. Hopefully, it will not take another 10 years to focus on the urgent need to rein in the raging hormones of supposedly charismatic/idealistic elements in the military establishment.

And the establishment itself, both civilian and military, must be jolted into doing something by way of a thoroughgoing reform. The Philippines is supposed to be getting a lot of assistance from the United States to modernize the military. We are getting weary, as well as leery, of this old saw. Everybody knows there's a "military mafia," but has the government undertaken an honest-to-goodness crackdown on criminal activities within the military establishment?

Perhaps, if nothing else, we should start a modernization of the curriculum of the military institutions in the country, to include a course on, shall we say, Idealism 101? Josiah Royce, a remarkable philosopher, has written a book titled "Lectures on Modern Idealism," which could be one of the basic texts.

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LETTERS

How about the mutineers' complaints?

YOUR paper's editorials on the expression of the young officers' grievances on July 27, 2003 were misplaced.

Your paper, the President and the cardinal are unanimous in condemning the means used by the young officers. The government is focusing it's entire power to unearth who are involved. Yet, this is not the issue.

It doesn't matter if the young officers be shot because of what they have done. (Maybe in another political space, they will be heroes.) But how about their complaints? They raised issues of life and death. The allegations are very serious. Imagine, the government providing the enemies with ammunitions to kill its own soldiers. The government killing its own people. The President being a terrorist. These charges cannot be hypocritically brushed aside.

As your paper now unwittingly proffers, it is the means and not the message that should be given attention. This is so unfortunate.

There is no question that the young officers are the cream of our youth. They deserved to be treated seriously. It doesn't matter what means were used, but what matters most is what they have exposed. When all the legal avenues become dysfunctional we expect extreme actions.

How about our country's leaders? The Makati incident showed their failure? It could not have happened if the government and the military were in good hands. Are these leaders, particularly the President and defense secretary, not guilty of incompetence?

—EMMANUEL C. FONTANILLA,
3/F Gonzales Bldg., General Santos City

Your honors, hands off from coup investigations, please!

WATCHING our lawmakers investigate the Oakwood coup is disappointing. I feel they should inhibit themselves from it.

The Senate seems to be shielding their colleague, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, instead of seeking the truth. During the coup, Honasan did not strongly condemn the uprising. He kept on harping on the so-called "legitimate" demands of the rebels. Maybe. But, remember, the motive does not make the method right. The reasons do not justify the rebellion. The rebels tried to grab power. Honasan should have upheld the law. It was his duty as senator. Then, he gave a privilege speech to defend himself. But such a speech is not a guarantee that he told us the truth. It just clothed whatever he said—whether it is the truth or a lie—with immunity, while the people the Senate grilled have perjury hanging over their heads. For they were sworn to tell nothing but the truth.

If Honasan is not really behind the coup, then the Senate should grill him also under oath. If the honorable senator is not really guilty, he should not hide behind his parliamentary immunity.

Likewise, the House of Representatives should also shun from the investigation. The rebels have charged their military superiors with corruption. Our congressmen, with their pork barrel, might not measure up to the standards of an impartial inquiry.

The judiciary is the right forum since the government already filed and will file cases against the rebels and the alleged brains. So, let the proper courts render the verdict.

—EYRICHE CORTEZ,
yesyesyo@yahoo.com

No such thing as 'too Catholic'

"RP too Catholic says 'Pink Pope'" (PDI, 8/2/03). I do not agree that one can be "too Catholic." One can only be "a Catholic," a person whose religion permeates his life and thus lives according to his faith. As St. Escriva said, "Religion cannot be separated from life either in theory or in daily reality." Sadly, many live their lives inconsistent with their faith. Many are just Catholics by name but never in practice.

—CLARABELLE P. FLORESCA, M.D.,
61 Road 2, Pag-asa, Quezon City

Corpus should stay

THANKS for the column of Rina Jimenez-David on Victor Corpus. David affirmed my impression that Corpus is a better man, model, hero and leader to honor and follow.

When Corpus defected to the communist movement, I thought then how great a sacrifice it was for him in the service of his country.

I was, however, turned off when he rejoined the army. Thus, it is a great relief for me to read about the turn of events in his life.

Recent events suggest that Corpus should continue with his military service for the sake of his country. The Philippines will be better off in the long run with people like Corpus serving the public.

—PABLO G. BALDAZO,
reyriverconsult1@aol.com

Resign!

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes was right when he said: "I will resign if I am the problem. But I am not the problem, I am part of the solution."

Ergo, he should resign so that the problem would be partly solved!

I believe President Macapagal-Arroyo lost what may well have been her only chance for history to view her administration more kindly when she failed to sack Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane for the Al-Ghozi escape and Reyes for the Oakwood caper.

—REYNALDO O. ARCILLA,
roarci@i-manila.com.ph

Against House Bill 6123

RAMON Tulfo writes that "controlling population is not the Church's concern unless it violates the laws of God." Commandment No. 5 is being violated with this bill. How can it be "pleasing in the eyes of God" if one prevents "the birth of unwanted babies who would grow up to be delinquents or criminals" or "not given good parental care"?

God is the author of life. He giveth and taketh away. What right has man to declare that one is "unwanted" or unfit to live? Once the egg and sperm cells meet, there is already a human being of great potentials, not a potential human being, as many mistakenly view it. Obstructing the flow of life, which the contraceptives do, is immoral.

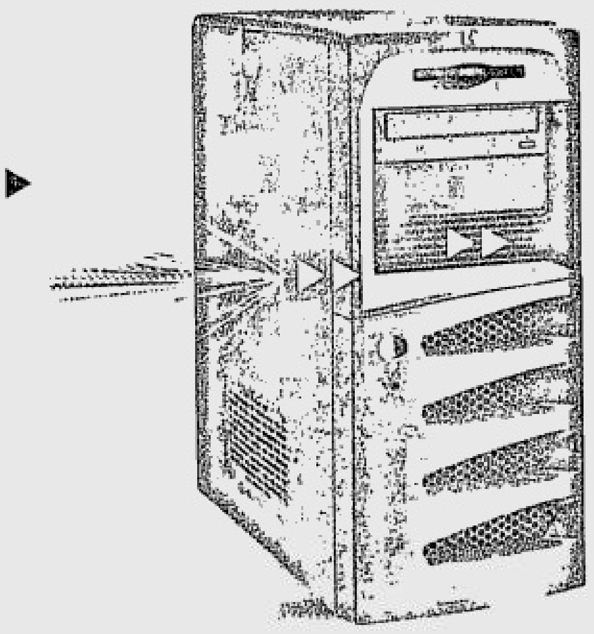
If the Church does not teach us morals, who will? Certainly not the honorable senators and congressmen. An ant has more right to question Einstein than for a mere creature, like man, to question God. In matters of faith and morals, the Church is the only and final authority. It has been in existence for more than 2,000 years, "for the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

I suggest that the people's representatives in Congress and the Senate should use the hard earned money we paid for taxes to enact only bills that improve the economy through livelihood projects and foster an environment for brisk business activities. Moreover, the lawmakers are duty-bound to uphold the Constitution by legislating bills that respect life and strengthen the family.

Most certainly, there are still decent Filipinos who can swing the votes for men and women of integrity, who value and respect life and the family.

We should be wary of House Bill No. 6123, which is just a recast of the equally dreaded House Bill No. 4110 that encourages abortion and the use contraceptives. For evil to flourish, good men have just to stand by and do nothing to prevent it.

—CHING D. AUNARIO,
15 Panay St., Philamlife Village,
Las Piñas City



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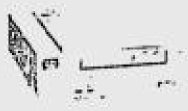

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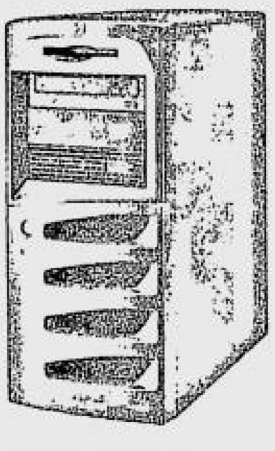

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Terror threats to Saudi credible, say US, Britain

WASHINGTON—The United States and Britain, citing credible intelligence reports, warned their nationals of terror threats to aviation and other interests in Saudi Arabia, and British Airways suspended all flights to the kingdom.

The warnings followed two clashes in three days in the Saudi capital Riyadh between police and Islamic militants that began with a shootout on Sunday and continued with a full-blown gun battle on Tuesday.

In Indonesia, where a car bomb killed 12 people at a luxury hotel in Jakarta on Aug. 5, the United States and Australia warned their nationals to avoid soft targets in the capital such as international hotels or shopping malls.

"I am very concerned specifically about Jakarta. We've just had information there, the night before last, that there could be terrorist attacks on international hotels or shopping centers used by Westerners, those kinds of targets," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said on Thursday.

"The 17th of August is Indonesia's National Day, so it's a day where this sort of thing could happen," he told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

The government of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, meets on Thursday to look at ways of strengthening security laws it introduced after bombs killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists, at Bali nightclubs last Oct. 12.

As the Bush administration hailed the success of a sting operation that netted a would-be arms smuggler, the State Department asked Americans to defer travel to Saudi Arabia.

"The US government has received indications of terrorist threats aimed at American and Western interests, including the targeting of transportation and civil aviation," it said in a statement.

"There is credible information that terrorists have targeted Western aviation interests in Saudi Arabia," it added.

"American citizens in Saudi Arabia should remain vigilant, particularly in public places."

Earlier, Britain issued a security warning. "There is credible intelligence of a serious threat to UK aviation interests in Saudi Arabia," a government spokesperson said.

British Airways, the only British carrier that flies to the kingdom, said it had decided to suspend flights after consultations with the British government. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Briton missile smuggler

NEWARK, New Jersey—US authorities Wednesday charged a British man with aiding terrorists by trying to sell surface-to-air missiles to undercover agents posing as Islamic militants intent on downing a US plane. Hemant Lakhani, a Briton of Indian descent, appeared in US federal court in Newark, New Jersey, on accusations he smuggled one Russian shoulder-held SA-18 missile into the United States and planned a further shipment of 50 such weapons. Lakhani, 68, appeared with Moinuddeen Ahmed Hameed, a Malaysian, who was charged with helping to finance the arms deal. A third man, Yehuda Abraham, 75, was charged separately in US federal court in New York and taken into custody pending an appearance in Newark. Lakhani was arrested Tuesday following an international sting operation involving the FBI, Russian federal agents and British counterintelligence. The US purchaser of the weapons was an FBI "cooperative witness" posing as the representative of a Somali militant group. *AFP*

Europe heat toll mounts

PARIS—Northern Europe looked forward Thursday to some cool relief from an unrelenting heatwave, but the frail and elderly continued to succumb to heat-related illnesses, with officials putting the mounting death toll in the hundreds. No firm Europe-wide tally was available, but according to official figures published in Italy, some 60 elderly people have died nationwide, mainly in the northern cities of Milan and Turin, with heat-related complaints to blame. In France—where temperatures have hovered around the 40-degree Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) mark for days—doctors said that at least 100 people had succumbed to the blistering heat, while the death toll in Spain climbed to 27. The Pompes Funebres Generales, one of France's biggest undertakers, on Wednesday said the death rate had jumped 37 percent nationwide and 49 percent in the Paris area last week, as compared with the same period in 2002. *AFP*

Arnold hires billionaire

LOS ANGELES—Action movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger Wednesday named billionaire businessman Warren Buffett as his chief economic adviser, adding heavyweight muscle to his campaign to be California's next governor. The ex-bodybuilder's coup in enlisting one of the world's top investment wizards came as he took flak from critics for failing to lay out clear plans to tackle the state's financial morass if he wins the Oct. 7 elections. Buffett plans to help the brawny Republican actor-turned-politician assemble other prominent business leaders and economists to advise him on the economic issues that confront the nation's most populous and diverse state. "He is truly a giant in the world of finance, and he will be a huge help to me as we work to strengthen California's economy," Schwarzenegger said. "He is the greatest investor ever, my mentor, and my hero," he said of the chair of the Nebraska-based Berkshire Hathaway insurance and investment group. *AFP*

Castro marks 77th birthday

HAVANA—Cuban President Fidel Castro turned 77 Wednesday to an unusual display of affection for the aging leader. The celebration began at the stroke of midnight as the official network flashed "Happy Birthday, Commander," on the nation's television screens. Elian Gonzalez, the boy rafter who became a bone of contention between Cuba and the United States, wrote a warm letter to Castro. The Cuban national baseball team sang "Happy Birthday" to Castro from the Pan American games in Santo Domingo. Washington was less enthusiastic. US Secretary of State Colin Powell taunted Castro, saying he should have marked the occasion of his birthday by retiring. *AFP*

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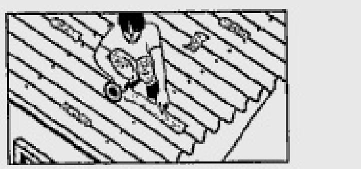
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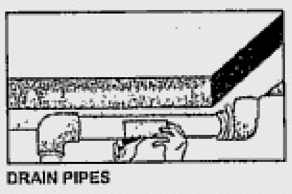
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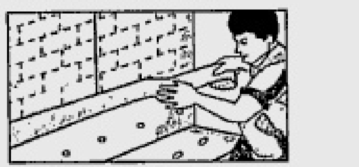
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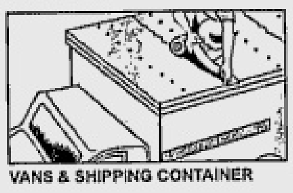
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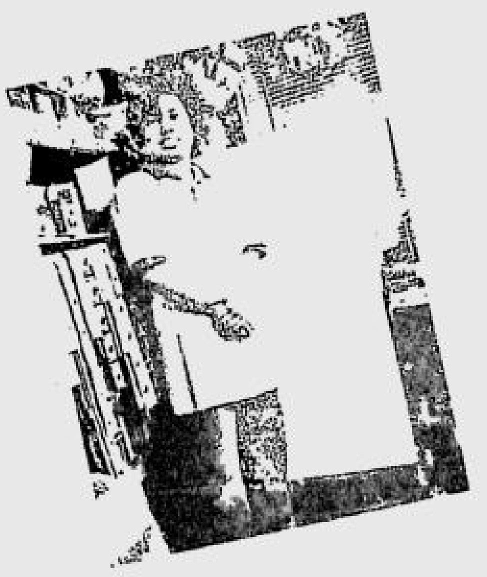

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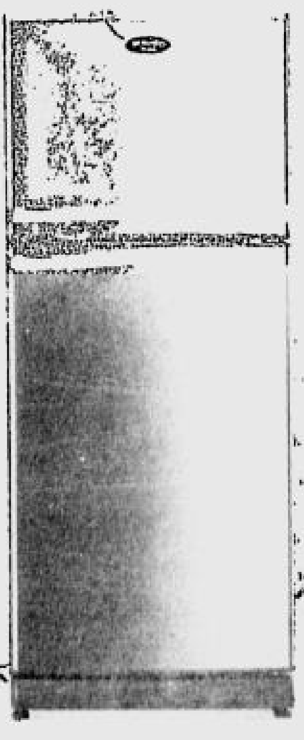

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Blaster worm variant emerges

SAN FRANCISCO—Home computer users got blasted by the Internet "worm" called Blaster on Wednesday as they struggled to apply a fix that office technicians handled easily, even as several experts said a new variant had emerged.

"Corporate America is safe from this one," said David Perry of Trend Micro, a Tokyo-based vendor of products that combat computer viruses. "This is spreading now among end-users."

A new strain of the malicious program was said to be working its way through cyberspace on Wednesday, but it was considered no more harmful than the original, which can cause a computer to crash and infect other computers on the Web.

The worm, also called MS-Blaster or LoveSan, infected office and home computers in the United States on Monday and quickly spread around the world, taking advantage of a security hole discovered last month in Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows NT and Windows Server 2003 operating systems.

At least 230,000 computers were infected by Blaster, according to a sample by anti-virus vendor Symantec Corp., while Moscow-based anti-virus provider Kaspersky Labs put the number closer to 300,000.

Patches for the hole, except for Windows NT 4.0, which the company no longer supports, were put online by Microsoft at its Web site (http://www.microsoft.com).

By Wednesday, most US companies with expert technicians were able to stamp out the worm, but home users found it difficult to find and apply the patch.

"I've been blasted," said one home user with a Windows XP operating system who got an error message saying the system would log off in 60 seconds. There was not enough time to download the patch.

Users whose systems are shut down like that need to go to a computer that can still get onto the Internet and download the patch to a disk, experts said.

Microsoft has said Blaster crashes some systems and infects others but otherwise does no damage. Although some corporate networks were slowed by the worm, no impact on overall Internet traffic was detected.

Experts warned, however, that more virulent "copy-cat" worms could be on the horizon. *Reuters*

US safer, more popular if Gore won—Albright

WASHINGTON—The United States would now be safer and more popular overseas had Al Gore instead of George W. Bush won the 2000 presidential election, former secretary of state Madeleine Albright said in remarks published Wednesday.

Albright, who served with the ex-vice president in former president Bill Clinton's administration, said the Bush administration had needlessly antagonized many US allies by going to war with Iraq despite heated opposition in Europe and the Muslim world.

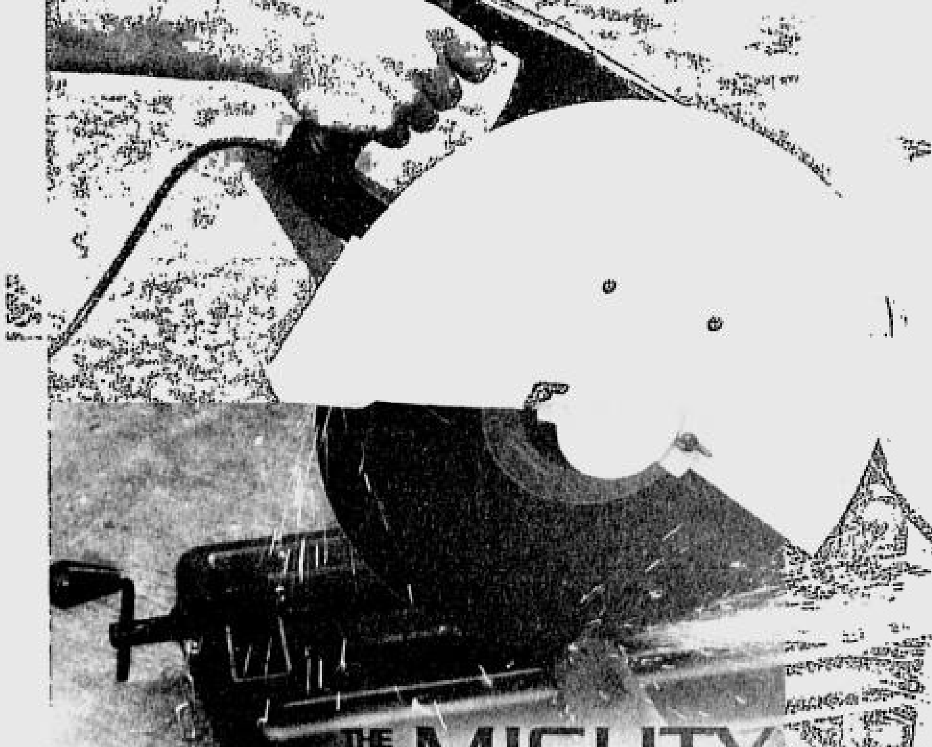
By ignoring or trivializing their concerns, Albright said Bush had squandered the well-spring of international sympathy for and goodwill toward the United States that followed the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

In an opinion piece published in the September/October 2003 issue of the scholarly journal "Foreign Affairs," Albright also accused the Bush administration of blundering by invading Iraq before Afghanistan was truly stabilized, Osama bin Laden had been caught and his al-Qaida network smashed.

"I remain convinced that had Al Gore been elected president, and had the attacks of Sept. 11 still happened, the United States and Nato would have gone to war in Afghanistan together, then deployed forces all around that country and stayed to rebuild it," she wrote.

"I also believe the United States and Nato together would have remained focused on fighting al-Qaida and would not have pretended—and certainly would not have been allowed to get away with pretending—that the ongoing failure to capture Osama bin Laden did not matter," she said.

"As for Saddam, I believe the Gore team would have read the intelligence information about his activities differently and concluded that a war against Iraq, although justifiable, was not essential in the short term to protect US security," Albright wrote. *AFP*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Libya sanctions seen staying despite Lockerbie deal

WASHINGTON—The United States will not lift its sanctions against Libya any time soon even if Tripoli takes responsibility for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing and escapes UN sanctions, US officials and analysts said on Wednesday.

The officials said Libya would have to take a series of actions—notably persuading the US government it has ceased support for terrorism and is not pursuing weapons of mass destruction—for the US penalties to be fully removed.

Diplomats said Libya has agreed in principle to pay $2.7 billion in compensation for the 270 victims of the mid-air bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland and to formally accept responsibility.

If it does so this week as expected, UN sanctions imposed on Libya in 1992 and suspended in 1999 after Tripoli turned over two Libyan suspects for trial could be permanently lifted, perhaps next week. But the diplomats stressed that they have been close to a deal in the past only to see it slip away.

Asked what effect lifting UN sanctions would have on the possible lifting of US sanctions, something that US oil companies would dearly like to see, one US official said bluntly: "Nothing."

"(That's not going to happen) for a long time," he added, noting Washington's concerns about Libya include past support for terrorism, questions about whether it is developing chemical, biological or nuclear weapons and even a Washington Post report last week saying former Liberian President Charles Taylor had recently flown to Libya and obtained arms.

"It would be different if (the Libyans) were being crystal clean on things but they're not. Whether it's the Liberia stuff or other things, they're playing games," he said.

The US sanctions on Libya include a ban on imports of Libyan crude oil to the United States dating to 1982 and expanded sanctions in 1986 that include a ban on direct trade, commercial contracts, and travel-related activities.

They also include the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act passed in 1996 and later amended in 2001 under which the US president can punish non-US firms investing more than $20 million annually in the energy sectors in Libya or Iran.

The State Department also designates Libya a state sponsor of terrorism, a status that imposes four key sanctions: a ban on arms-related exports and sales, controls on "dual-use" items with military and civilian purposes, prohibitions on US economic aid and a requirement that Washington oppose loans to Libya by international financial institutions like the the World Bank.

"The Libyans are going to have to be cleaner than anybody else to get off that list," said Edward Walker, a former top US diplomat who said Washington had in the past looked at a "sliding scale" to selectively lift US sanctions on Libya.

"The first one would be (letting) businessmen travel to Libya and review their properties and enter into negotiations on continuing their efforts," he said, suggesting the Bush administration might eventually take this tack. "Some things like that could be done at a relatively limited level."

While acknowledging that there are some US officials, notably at the Pentagon, who are dead set against lifting US sanctions, analysts said there would be strong pressure from the business community to lift them.

"If the UN sanctions really are a thing of the past... there'll be a lot of pressure to say 'What good do the US sanctions do if all it does is disadvantage especially American oil companies?'" said Jim Steinberg, a former deputy national security adviser under US President Bill Clinton. *Reuters*

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Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 459 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Guingona: Cha-cha foreign-inspired

ANGELES CITY—Vice President Teofisto Guingona yesterday said the Macapagal administration is being pressured by foreign governments to remove a provision in the Constitution that prohibits foreigners from completely owning businesses in the country.

In a speech before a forum organized by the Anti-Globalization Movement and the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, Guingona said should Article 12 of the Constitution be removed, Filipinos will lose pride in singing the national anthem.

"Resist the moves (to amend the Constitution) or risk singing the anthem with shameful, altered lyrics with say, 'lupang nahiram (borrowed land),' 'lupang wala na (lost land),' 'lupang sayang (wasted land)' or worst, 'lupang goodbye (vanished land)," he told some 300 sectoral leaders in Central Luzon.

He said removing Article 12, which is on national patrimony, would open up the country to total foreign exploitation.

"It's the last bulwark, the last protection," the vice president said, referring to the significance of that article that, among other things, prohibits foreigners from completely owning businesses in the country.

Charter change, according to Guingona, was basically directed at giving foreign investors a stronger grip on the economy.

He urged the leaders of the forum organizers to resist the moves in Congress to introduce changes in the Constitution. He said the impositions of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank since 1982 in liberalizing the economy in exchange for loans and recently, the World Trade Organization for purported free trade had hurt the country's agricultural and trading sectors well enough.

"There has been no fair trade or free competition," Guingona said in Filipino.

The WTO, he said, had failed to correct unfair trade and had imposed on industrialized states the policy of reducing subsidies that kept down the prices of local farm products and manufactured goods.

According to him, export subsidy by the United States has amounted to $24 billion annually; Japan, $30 billion; and the European Union, $60 billion.

In contrast, he said the Philippine government gives none to its agricultural sector.

He said there were "continuing pressures to open up the services sector to foreign companies, including communication and education services, construction and engineering, banking and insurance, and cultural and sporting services."

Guingona said he was "ready to fight in all forms. I'm willing to struggle in any cause to further it. I will even sacrifice my life for the sake of our national patrimony." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Mutiny backers in Cebu sacked from positions

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez and Kathy I. Navarro, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—Five junior military officers assigned to the Visayas have been ordered relieved from their positions for alleged involvement in the July 27 mutiny in Makati City.

The five were ordered restricted to Camp Macario Peralta, the headquarters of the Army's Third Infantry Division in Jamindan town, Capiz, said Maj. Lyndon Sollesta, 3ID spokesperson.

He identified the officers as Capt. Randy Pedroso, Capt. Sandy David, 1st Lt. Allan Margarata, 1st Lt. Charlie Banaag and 2nd Lt. Romeo Celiz.

Banaag is the commander of the 11th Infantry Battalion Alpha Company stationed in northern Negros and Pedroso, of the 87th Military Intelligence Company in Iloilo. Celis belonged to the 15th IB in Bohol while Pedroso and David were with the 78th IB in Cebu.

Custody

They were placed under the custody of Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Alcasid, 3ID commander, said Sollesta.

He said the officers' movements were restricted to the 200-hectare main compound of the military camp so that they would be "available for investigation."

One of the three junior military officers based in Cebu who expressed support for the failed mutiny was flown to Manila on Aug. 7.

Navy Lt. Senior Grade Allan Uy, former information officer of Naval Forces Central Command (Navforcen), was "escorted" by Armed Forces elements to Manila. From Manila, Uy was brought to Sangley Point, Cavite City where the Philippine Fleet is based.

Spokesperson

Uy acted as spokesperson of the three officers who publicly expressed sympathy and "peaceful support" when the mutineers were still holed up inside Oakwood Premier in Makati City on July 27.

After the mutiny, Uy and the two others, Navy Lt. (s.g.) Anchises Diola of the Armed Forces' Central Command (Centcom) headquarters here and Army Capt. Jojo Pascual of the 53rd engineering brigade, were relieved from their posts and placed under custody of their respective commanders.

Sollesta said the 3ID received an order from Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr., Philippine Army chief, to restrict Pedroso, David, Magarata, Banaag and Celiz to camp pending an investigation of their possible links with the mutineers.

Class 1995

Like Uy, Diola and Pascual, Pedroso and David were also members of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) class of 1995, to which Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes and other mutiny leaders belong.

Banaag and Margarata were members of the PMA class of 1999 while Celiz belonged to class 2000.

Banaag and Celiz arrived at the camp on Monday after they were fetched by three soldiers, including two armed escorts, at the Iloilo port.

Sollesta said the escorts were for the "protection" of the officers. The three other officers are expected to arrive at Camp Macario Peralta today, he said.

Sollesta said the names of the five soldiers were among those found in diskettes allegedly owned by the mutineers. The diskettes allegedly contained the names of the mutineers' financial backers and supporters, and detailed plans to topple the government.

Ruiz cremation

THE REMAINS of Eufemia Icban Ruiz, of Lubao, Pampanga, who died peacefully on Aug. 9 at the age of 80, will be cremated tomorrow at 1 p.m. after a 10 a.m. Mass at Chapel 15 of Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Ruiz is survived by her husband Godofredo; children, Ramon and Girlie, Cherry and Sonny, Fred Jr., and Ruby; grandchildren, Ria, Roy, Dyan, Lorena, Katrina, Charisse, Luis Jr. "Onyok"; great-grandchildren Linneya and Miya; brother Manuel Icban Jr. and sister Anita Viray. A Mass will be held at 6 p.m. today at Funeraria Paz.

Abduction of girls in Bacolod alarming, says police officer

BACOLOD CITY—It's alarming.

That was the reaction of Supt. Edgar Esparagoza, deputy city police director, after receiving reports that unidentified men tried to abduct a 16-year-old girl Monday night.

Five young girls had been abducted before that in Bacolod since May. They were later released unharmed after the suspects stripped them inside a van.

This time, the victim is a resident of Talisay City, about 7.3 km north of here, and a student of La Consolacion College in Bacolod City.

She told police that four unidentified men forced her to board a gray van with a white stripe near the Gaisano City Supermall at about 7 p.m. on Monday.

Two of the suspects, she added, were wearing bonnets.

Chief Insp. Roderick Alba, Bacolod City Police Precinct 1 chief, said the victim was on board a passenger jeep on her way to school that night.

Two male passengers started to annoy her so she decided to disembark near the Gaisano City Supermall, about a kilometer from her school.

But the two men also got off from the jeep and followed her. Then two other men, wearing bonnets, got off from a gray van and forced her to board it. She fought back and escaped.

On May 4, men wearing bonnets forced a girl to board a gray L-300 van where she was undressed. She was released unharmed.

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Fight vs Boracay casino continues

CHILDREN of Boracay and their elders have petitioned Malacañang and Congress to stop the planned putting up of a casino in the world known island-resort.

Fifteen youngsters, from Grades 1 to high school, cosigned a letter calling on the national government to declare it a policy to "keep Boracay casino-free."

"Gambling is an unpleasant vice and gambling casino will not add to the peace of Boracay," they said.

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. has started construction of a four-story casino in Barangay Yapak in Malay, Aklan, with the support of local government officials. *Carlito Pablo*

Ecija gov slams Palace hand in mayors' cases

CABANATUAN CITY—Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III deplored Malacañang's "undue interference" in the powers of provincial executives to impose disciplinary sanctions on municipal mayors who are facing administrative charges.

Joson, executive vice president of the League of Provinces, cited two instances this year where he said Malacañang, through some of its officials, meddled in the preventive suspension orders he issued against mayors.

The latest was on Wednesday when Joson received an order, sent through the Department of the Interior and Local Government, directing him to lift the 60-day suspension order he issued against Mayor Francisco Guerrero of Bongabon town.

"I cannot do that. It's too much. It's irregular," he said in a telephone interview. "I returned the order and if they would lift the suspension order of Guerrero, I would be forced to sue them in court."

Joson said he issued two weeks ago the preventive suspension order to Guerrero upon the recommendation of the provincial board, which is investigating the administrative charges against the mayor filed by a jobseeker.

Sexual harassment

Among other things, the jobseeker, who was promised to be given a high position in the municipal government, charged the mayor with sexual harassment and oppression, Joson said.

He said the order was done in accordance with the Local Government Code. He added that the code, under Section 63, provided that preventive suspension may be imposed any time by the governor on elective officials of a component city or town who are respondents in a case or cases filed against them if the evidence of guilt is strong.

Joson said the preventive suspension, as authorized by the court, is issued if there is a great probability that the continued stay in office of the respondent could influence the witnesses or pose a threat to the safety and integrity of records and other pieces of evidence.

He said the remedy for the suspended official is to file a case of abuse of the exercise of the power of preventive suspension if they thought the governor went beyond his limits.

Intervention

But Guerrero in this case, he said, at once sought the intervention of Malacañang, which referred the matter to the office of the secretary for legal affairs.

"I was not asked to give my side. They made a hasty decision to order the lifting of the suspension of Guerrero," he said.

Joson also said Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. called him to intercede for Mayor Elizabeth Vargas of Aliaga town who was suspended for 60 days in April this year.

He said he explained everything to Lina, who took the cudgel for the suspended mayor.

Joson said he became more dismayed when Malacañang reinstated Vargas, who was already into her 20th day of serving the suspension order.

Vargas, he said, was charged by seven of the eight-man municipal council with unilaterally amending a council-approved municipal budget last year.

Joson said Vargas used a wrong premise in arguing strongly for the lifting of her suspension. She said she was not given due process as she had filed in court the cases against her accusers.

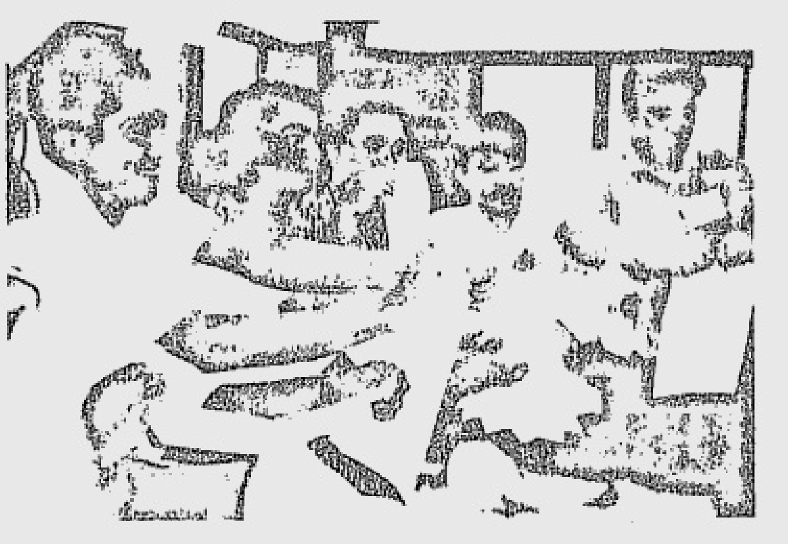
"The lamentable fact is that on the basis of that argument Malacañang believed her and ignored my rightful powers (to suspend) as governor," he said.

Palace move

Joson said when he filed his motion for reconsideration, Malacañang, through its legal affairs staff, took note of his arguments and immediately set aside its order to lift Vargas' suspension.

He said he also learned that Malacañang had intervened in the case of a Bataan mayor who was suspended by the governor.

"This should be corrected at once. It should not go on and on like this. It does not speak well of good governance," he said. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



ORGANIZERS of the new group Bantay Demokrasya tear up copies of the National Recovery Program during the group's launching in a Quezon City restaurant.

New coalition formed to fight future coups

A NEW coalition of different organizations was formed to thwart any attempt to overthrow the Macapagal administration through a coup.

The coalition, calling itself Bantay Demokrasya, said in a statement that it was willing to fight any coup similar to the mutiny staged by the Magdalo group of soldiers in Makati.

"We will not allow military rule," said the group's statement.

Among the coalition members are the Quezon City Chamber of Commerce; the National Confederation of Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (Nactoda); groups of overseas Filipino workers; several factions of Guardians; and women's groups.

The coalition was formed with the symbolic tearing up of copies of the National Recovery Program presented by the Magdalo group during their mutiny.

Its members said had the mutiny succeeded, they were willing to go out into the streets and block Edsa.

"If they had won, we are certain that we would be able to reclaim democracy through peaceful means," said the coalition.

Ariel Lim, head of the Nactoda, said his group believes that elections are still the most democratic way to change government leadership.

Nelson Ramirez, head of the United Filipino Seafarers (UFS) and one of the leaders of the coalition, said military rule had been rejected by the people when the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos was ousted during Edsa 1.

"We don't want our youth to experience what we have experienced during martial law," said Ramirez.

"We are not pro-government or anti-government. But we could not tolerate any treacherous act to correct a mistake with another mistake," said a Nactoda statement.

Noel Jesus, executive director of the Kaibigan OFWs, said the coalition has the numbers to block any coup attempt through people power.

Teddy Barandia, another coalition leader, said his group believes that influential persons were behind the failed Oakwood mutiny.

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MONDAY TO TUESDAY
AUGUST 18-19, 2003

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (MON.,08/18/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (TUE.,08/19/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MESA 40F AND 26F

Portion of E. Rodriguez Blvd. from BMA Ave. to Violago Commercial Center including PCSO Cpd., Villa España Subd., Delos Santos Medical Center, portion of Bayani, Araneta Ave. and Guirayan St. in Bgy. Doña Imelda.

Portion of BMA Ave. from E. Rodriguez Blvd. to Caliraya St. including portion of Kitanlad, Kabignayan, Victory Ave., Caliraya, Agno Ext., Tuayan, Quezon Blvd. and Mazaraga Sts. in Bgy. Tatalon.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON.,08/18/03) AND 5:00AM (TUE.,08/19/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MESA 40F AND 26F

Portion of 10th St. to 14th St. from Bgy. Damayang Lagi to near Gilmore Ave. including Forest Hill, Twin Hills, Pines Hill, Park Hill, Calvary Hill and 9th Sts. in New Manila.

Rolling Hills Subd., portion of Victoria Ave. and Doña J. Rodriguez in Bgy. Mariana.

Portion of E. Rodriguez Blvd. in Bgy. Damayang Lagi including Trinity College, España Ice Plant, Nissan Inc., La Felonila, La Trinidad, Sta. Cecilia Sts. and Felda Drive.

REASON: Line rehabilitation/maintenance work along E. Rodriguez Blvd., Bgy. Damayang Lagi.

BULACAN (MEYCAUAYAN)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (MON., 08/18/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30AM AND 4:00AM (TUE., 08/19/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MEYCAUAYAN 42YM AND 52YM

Portion of Iba-Camalig Road from near Meralco-Meycauyan substation in Bgy. Camalig to near North Diversion Road in Bgy. Libtong including Meridian Indl. Cpd., Greenhills Wood Ind., La Pena Scala Saw Mill, Banson Lumber, and Emco Subd. in Bgy. Libtong; Ana Maria Subd., Board Master, Intl. Denim, Coca-Cola Meycauayan, Las Buenas Devt. and Muralla Indl. Park in Bgy. Iba.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON.,08/18/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM (TUE.,08/19/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MEYCAUAYAN 42YM AND 52YM

Portion of Iba-Camalig Road from near North Diversion Road to near Malhacan Road in Bgy. Libtong.

REASON: Relocation of 115kv facilities affected by road widening project at Meycauayan Exit.

MANDALUYONG CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (MON., 08/18/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:30AM (TUE., 08/19/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MANDALUYONG 54VD

Portion of Boni Ave. from near Mayon St. to Barangka Drive including Pulog, San Roque, Dansalan, Malapantao, Makaturing, Palali, Natib, Alchan, Wayan, Sacripante, Basilan Sts., Sambahayan Condominium, San Francisco Gardens and PLDT-Dansalan Cpd. in Bgy. Barangka Ilaas.

Portion of Libertad, Calbayog, Sinag, M. Cruz, Arayat, Montalban, Antipolo and Bulusan Sts. in Bgys. Highway Hills, Malamig and Mauway.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON., 08/18/03) AND 6:30AM (TUE., 08/19/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MANDALUYONG 54VD

Portion of EDSA (Northbound Side) from Guadalupe Bridge to near Madison St. including Puyat Steel, Robinson's Apartelle, Automatic Center, SmithKline-Beecham, portion of Boni Ave., Pinatubo, Mayon, Makiling Sts. and Horizon Hotel in Bgy. Barangka Ilaas.

REASON: Installation of line switch along Boni Ave. near Pinatubo St. in preparation for Rockwell feeder 4.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2003

PASIG CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAGUIG 51ZL-PASIG 42ZK

Portion of Elizco Road and A. Luna St. from Meralco-Taguig substation to and including A. Dizon, Jacinto and V. Puzon Sts. in Bgy. Bambang.

Sanchez and Santos Sts. in Bgy. San Joaquin; Jimenez, R. Castillo, N. Cuevas Sts., Kalawaan Resettlement, Ismar Marble and Axis Road in Bgy. Kalawaan Sur.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAGUIG 51ZL-PASIG 42ZK

Along A. Luna St. from near A. Dizon St. to near E. Santos St. in Bgy. Bambang.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and line rehabilitation work along A. Luna St. in Bgy. Bambang, Pasig City.

CAVITE (BACOOR AND IMUS)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS PALICO 35ZE AND 37ZE

Along Palico Road from Aguinaldo Highway to Molino Road including portion of Buhay na Tubig in Imus; Cherry Homes, Greenplains, Addas Village, DSM Subd., Villa Verde, Villa Angelina, Addas Village 4, Hotlier's Village and Console Village in Bgys. Mambog and Bayanan in Bacoor.

Along Molino Road from Nograles Subd. in Bo. Ligas to Queen's Row including Ecotrend Subd., Rofil Village, Addas Village 1 & 2, Camella San Nicolas, Celestino Subd., Paula Homes, Wood Estate, Orient Village, Susana Homes, Progressive Village 3, Act Infant Jesus Subd., Kaunlaran Village, Macaria Homes and Kalayaan Subd. in Molino, Ligas and Bayanan in Bacoor.

Along Queen's Road including Holy Infant Jesus High School, Gardenia Valley, Green Valley Subd., Camella Springville Classic, San Lorenzo Ruiz Homes, St. Joseph Homes, Queen's Row Subd. and Camella Springville-North in Bgy. Molino, Bacoor.

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Angelus Eternal Garden to near Bayan Luma Road including Justin Vill., Perpetual Village 5 & 7, Luzville Subd., Valleyfield Subd. in Bacoor and Virata Subd. in Imus

REASON: Various maintenance work inside Meralco-Bacoor and Meralco-Palico substations.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 19-20, 2003

SAN JUAN AND QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (TUE., 08/19/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:30AM (WED., 08/20/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAN JUAN 14VF

Portion of N. Domingo from Pinaglabanan in Bgy. Pedro Cruz to Doña J. Rodriguez in Bgy. Valencia, Quezon City including C. De Jesus, V. Sotto, Ipil, Yakal, Josefa Drive, portion of Lourdes Drive, Lt. Artiaga Sts. and Bgy. Ermitanyo.

Portion of Pinaglabanan from N. Domingo to Pinaglabanan Elementary School including Paraiso, Pancho Villa, P. Narciso Sts., Benson Apartelle and Pinaglabanan Shrine in Bgy. Corazon De Jesus.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE., 08/19/03) AND 6:30AM (WED., 08/20/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAN JUAN 14VF

Portion of Santolan Road from Valenzuela to near J. Abad Santos St. including Bgys. Isabelita, St. Joseph, Pinaglabanan Ext., portion of P. Guevarra, Marne, Ibuna, Hardboard, B. Padilla, Mons. G. Plana, M. Miranda, T. Claudio, F. Manalo Sts. and White Cross Children's Home in Bgy. Onse, San Juan.

REASON: Replacement and relocation of substandard poles along Santolan Road near P. Guevarra St.

RIZAL (TERESA AND MORONG)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (TUE.,08/19/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:30AM AND 7:00AM (WED., 08/20/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TERESA 43XP

Along Provincial Road from Antipolo boundary to Morong boundary including Municipality of Teresa Poblacion, Pantay Buhangin, Bagumbayan, San Guillermo, Acme Farms, Coral Farms, Foremost Farms, Cosmos Farms, Cotton Hills Subd. and JMG Resort in Teresa.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE., 08/19/03) AND 7:00AM (FRI., 08/20/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TERESA 43XP

Along Provincial Road from Teresa boundary to near Cardona boundary including Municipality of Morong Poblacion, Morong General Hospital, Bgys. Maybancal, Kaingin, San Jose, Janice Farms, Evita's Swine Farms, Morong Cockpit and Tuazon-Soriano Ricemill in Morong.

REASON: Relocation/retirement of facilities and installation of line switch along National Road-Morong Junction.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2003

QUEZON CITY (NOVALICHES)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 1:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 48YJ

Major portion of Villaflor Village along Villareal Ave. in Bgy. Gulod, Novaliches.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and other line maintenance job along Villareal Ave. in Bgy. Gulod, Novaliches.

MANILA (BINONDO)

BETWEEN 11:00AM AND 1:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT BINONDO 13N

Portion of Juan Luna, Muelle de Binondo and Muelle de la Industria from near C.M. Recto Ave. to near Prinza St. including Artex Building in Binondo, Manila.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco-Binondo substation.

CAVITE

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS TERNATE 41TN, 31ZO AND 32ZO; AND PUERTO AZUL 32XX AND 33XX

The whole of Maragondon and Ternate including Marbella Resort, Puerto Azul Beach Resort, Caysubic Cottages and Paniman Resorts.

Bgys. Muzon, San Roque, Molino and Malainen in Naic.

REASON: Replacement of corroded wires at Cross Country, Ternate, Cavite.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2003

BULACAN AND PAMPANGA

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 7:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS BALIWAG 321YW AND 324YW; AND PORTION OF CIRCUITS BALIWAG 33YW, 34YW, 322YW AND 323YW

Bgys. Pinagbarilan, Makinabang, Pagala, Sto. Niño, Ulingao, San Roque, Solivan, Barangka, Paclan, Paco, Bani, Talang, Pansumaloc, Hinukay, Tibag and portion of Baliwag Town Proper in Baliwag, Bulacan.

Bgys. Paltaw, Lumbac, Balatong-A, Batasan, Matang Tubig, Balatong-B and Inaon in Pulilan, Bulacan.

Bgy. Tambabong in Bustos, Bulacan.

Bgys. Lico, Libis, Talacsan, Maronquillo and Pulo in San Rafael, Bulacan.

Bgys. Balatong-B, Balucuc, Tilapayong, Calutinan, Sulivan, Calantipay, San Agustin, Concepcion and Sitio Duyong in Apalit, Pampanga.

Bgys. Himakay, Paligui, Visal San Pablo, Bahay Pare, Visal Sto. Niño, Visal Sto. Cristo, Pulong Palazan, Pulong Gubat and Talang in Candaba, Pampanga.

REASON: Relocation of poles to clear DPWH road widening project affected by proposed construction of overpass along Doña Remedios Trinidad Highway in Baliwag, Bulacan.

PASIG CITY, TAGUIG CITY AND RIZAL (TAYTAY)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAGUIG 49ZL

Portion of Elizco Road and Tipas-Napindan Road (A. Natividad) from Meralco-Taguig substation to near Villa Juana St. including Grad Mix Concrete in Bgy. Napindan, Taguig City.

Portion of Hon. Alfonso Sandoval Ave. from near Pasig Slaughterhouse to and including Greenwoods Ave., Greenwoods Executive Village in Taytay, Rizal; Sitio Ilugin Matanza Phase 1, Rodil Compound, Golden Homes, Villa Alegre, Villa Gloria 3 Subd. and MC Nova Apparel in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

Along M.H. Del Pilar Ave. from Willa Rey Village to near Meralco-Pasig substation including Ireneo, San Agustin, Market Aves., Bedana, Kap. Ato and Dr. Pilapil Sts. in Bgys. Sto. Tomas, Sagad and Sta. Cruz; Woodline Phils., Villa Miguela Subd., Suarezville Subd. and Villatech Subd. in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TAGUIG 49ZL AND 50ZL

Along Hon. Sandoval Ave. from Tipas-Napindan Road to Pasig Slaughterhouse including Anchor Steel in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

REASON: Relocation of facilities to clear building under construction along Hon. Alfonso Sandoval Ave. in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

QUEZON CITY (FAIRVIEW)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 49YJ

Along Dahlia Ave. in Fairview Park Subd. from near Regalado Ave. to Greenview Executive Village including BIR Employees Housing, Villa Orion Subd., Victorian Heights and Merryhomes Subd. in West Fairview.

REASON: Upgrading of primary lines along Dahlia St. in West Fairview, Q.C.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY
AUGUST 21-22, 2003

TAGUIG CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU.,08/21/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI., 08/22/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALIBAY 53VJ AND 412VJ

Along Amorsolo St. and Chino Roces Ave. (Pasong Tamo Extn.) from Meralco-Malibay substation to Lawton Ave. including Nutrition Center of the Phils., Phil. Center for Population & Devt. and Social Welfare & Devt. Center for Asia and the Pacific in Fort Bonifacio.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU.,08/21/03) AND 6:00AM (FRI., 08/22/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALIBAY 53VJ AND 412VJ

Along Lawton Ave. and East Service Road of South Superhighway from near Amorsolo St. to near TESDA Compound including Phil. Navy and Phil. Marines Compound in Fort Bonifacio and Western Bicutan.

REASON: Various line rehabilitation work along Lawton Ave. and East Service Road in Fort Bonifacio and Western Bicutan, Taguig City.

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU.,08/21/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI.,08/22/03) - PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT MARIKINA 41VG

Portion of Katipunan Ave. from B. Serrano Ave. to near Ateneo Cpd. including portion of J.P. Rizal, T. Castro, Aurora Blvd. and B. Serrano Ave. in Proj. 4, St. Bridget's School, Aurora Milestone Condominium and K-Mart Complex.

Portion of C-5 Road from B. Serrano Ave. to near Eastwood Ave. including Blue Ridge "B" Subd., Bgy. Libis, Phoenix Sun Business Park, Mercury Drug Corp. Complex, Titan, Calypso, Apollo and Poseidon Sts. in Acropolis Subd.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU.,08/21/03) AND 6:00AM (FRI.,08/22/03) - PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT MARIKINA 41VG

Portion of B. Serrano Ave. from Katipunan Ave. to near Blue Ridge "B" Subd. Gate including the whole of St. Ignatius Village.

Portion of Aurora Blvd. (Northside) from Anonas Road to near Good Sheperd Convent including the whole of Project 3.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Aurora Blvd. and B. Serrano Ave.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY
AUGUST 22-23, 2003

LAGUNA (SAN PABLO CITY)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (FRI., 08/22/03) AND 7:00AM (SAT., 08/23/03) - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS SAN PABLO I 12ZU AND 13ZU; AND PORTION OF CIRCUITS SAN PABLO II 43WJ AND 45WJ

Portion of Cosico Ave., Maharlika Hi-way, Rizal Ave., Mabini, Malvar Sts. and Schetelig Ave. from near BLTB Co. in Bgy. Del Remedio to near Doña Eusebia Subd. in Bgy. Sta. Isabel in San Pablo City.

Portion of Mabini St. and Provincial Road from Rizal Ave. in San Pablo City town proper to Swift Dressing Plant in Bgy. San Buenaventura including Lake City Hotel, Brion Village, Springleaf Subd., Meralco Housing Ph. 1 in Bgy. San Lucas, Bgy. San Pedro and Bgy. Dolores.

Portion of Alcantara, P. Paterno, M. Paulino, and Maharlika Hi-way from Rizal Ave. to Bgy. San Gregorio.

Along Sampaguita and Ilang-Ilang Sts. from M. Paulino to Nestle Hidden Spring Cpd.

Portion of Azucena and Aglipay Sts. from Lakandula to Bgy. Bautista including Villa Antonio, Teomora Village, Bgy. San Bartolome and Bgy. Santiago.

Portion of Barangay Road from Rizal Ave. to Maharlika Hi-way in San Pablo City town proper.

REASON: Various line maintenance work along Rizal Ave., Schetelig Ave. and Provincial Road in San Pablo City town proper and Bgy. San Lucas II.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2003

CAVITE (DASMARIÑAS AND GEN. TRIAS)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ABUBOT 32XZ

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Abubot substation to near Villa Luisa Homes including Asuncion Subd., Camerino Ave., Don Placido Campo Drive, Dasmaville, Alcantara Subd., Medinaville Subd., Satellite Homes, Fiesta Homes Subd., St. Maryville, Emerald Crest, Wood Estate Village in Bo. San Jose, Solar Homes, Marycris Complex and Dexterville Subd. in Dasmariñas.

Parklane Homes in Bo. San Francisco, Sitios Kanatuhan, Elang, Maralas, Bos. Santiago, Ipilan and Pasong Camachile in Gen. Trias.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco-Abubot substation.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2003

CAVITE

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ABUBOT 39XZ

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Abubot substation to near Doyet Bakery including Southfield Subd., Salitran I, Dara Subd., and Phila Ind in Dasmariñas.

Metro Dialysis Center, Metrobank and New Imus Village in Imus.

Along Salawag Road from Aguinaldo Highway to Molino Road including Sunnycrest Village, Summer Meadow Subd., Summerwind Village, South Meridian Homes, Garden Grove 1-4, Andreaville Exec. Homes, Orchard Golf and Country Club and Raintree Homes in Dasmariñas.

Along Molino Road from Salawag Road to near Mary Homes including San Miguel I Subd. and portion of Georgetown Heights Subd. in Bacoor.

REASON: Inspection of deteriorated facilities in various places at Cross Country, Rosario, Cavite.

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALIBAY 416VJ

Portion of Amorsolo St. from Meralco-Malibay substation to Antonio S. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road) including Racks Restaurant, Caltex, V & O Co., portion of Dasmariñas Village and Ecology Village Meralco Area (Units 45-84) in Bgys. Kayamanan "B" and "C".

Portion of Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. from Amorsolo St. to near Milflores St. including Mantrade Automotive Corp. and MRT-Magallanes station in Bgy. San Lazaro.

Major portion of San Lorenzo Village including Assumption College, Assumption Convent, Arguilla, Briones, Lippay, Balmori, Tolentino, Apostol, Joaquin, Garcia Villa, Hidalgo, Rocha, Zaragosa, Edades, Nakpil Sts., Zulueta Circle, portions of San Lorenzo Drive, Ponce, Tampingco, Metantic and Amorsolo Sts. in Bgy. San Lorenzo

REASON: Various line rehabilitation work along Amorsolo St. and EDSA in Makati City.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule.

For more information, please contact our CALL CENTER at telephone number 16211, fax nos. 1622-8556 and 1622-8554, or e-mail address callcenter.tech.assist@meralco.com.ph. For faster resolution of inquiries, please use the *Bill ID Number or Service Identification Number (SIN)* indicated in your electric bills

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Recruitment of urban poor to support 'F5'

From page A1

lawmakers sharply accused yesterday of bias against the mutineers.

Reynaldo Wycoco, director of the National Bureau of Investigation, told the commission that the NBI was checking out other "staging points" used by the renegade soldiers.

Wycoco said it was not possible for the 321 mutineers who assembled at Oakwood to have come from just two houses. He was referring to the houses of Estrada's mistress Laarni Enriquez and of Estrada's former deputy executive secretary Ramon Cardenas, where government agents found equipment and personal effects allegedly belonging to the renegades.

"We're still identifying the other possible civilian participants," he said. But when questioned by the commissioners, he did not elaborate.

Garcia, a retired brigadier general, said he was part of the "special monitoring committee" also composed of the intelligence chiefs of the military and police that discussed and reported the coup plot to Malacañang.

He said the People's Movement Against Poverty and a group called Demokrasya, as well as some members of the Guardians, a fraternity of active and retired members of the military and police, were mobilized to support the rebel soldiers.

"We know there was large-scale recruitment in urban poor communities of Guardian members. We know there were attempts to mobilize them," Garcia said.

But he did not say who were behind the recruitment. In response to a question by commission member Fr. Joaquin Bernas, he said the names of these persons were "classified secret."

The commission did not press him.

Springing Estrada

Garcia said the supposed plot also involved springing ousted President Joseph Estrada from detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City and taking over television and radio stations.

"We've assessed [that] this would be linked to a particular Task Force 17, a task force of PJEE (President Joseph Ejercito Estrada) escorts, as supplied by documents seized" from the Oakwood Premier building in Makati, he said.

After the Sona

Garcia said the supposed plot was to have taken place after the President's State of the Nation Address on July 28.

"It was a premature execution and subsequent improvisation of a portion of a larger politico-military conspiracy," he said.

He also said the "F5"—the intelligence officers' term for the five junior military officers who led the mutiny—were hoping that their "audacity" would trigger other factors that would replicate the "People Power" revolts of 1986 and 2001 that ousted the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and Estrada, respectively.

Of the "F5," Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and Army Capt. Milo Maestrecampo testified before the commission on Wednesday. Captains Garry Alejano and Gerardo Gambala and Lt. (s.g.) James Layug are scheduled to testify today.

Garcia was careful not to tag anyone as the mastermind of the supposed plot.

During questioning by the commission's chief counsel Mario Ongkiko, Garcia stressed that he did not call Sen. Gregorio Honasan a "leader" of the coup plot.

He said that in his report, he merely described the coup plotters as "being guided by the National Recovery Program" of Honasan.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez had earlier told the commission that the renegade soldiers had planned to reinstall Estrada for three days, with opposition Senator Honasan to take over afterward.

But Golez said that although a coup would have benefited Estrada—who is on trial for alleged plunder—there was no evidence directly linking him to the mutiny.

Biased, brazen

Two opposition congressmen assailed the Feliciano Commission, saying it was biased and serving as virtual counsel for the Macapagal administration.

"The manner by which the commission handled the first public inquiry on Wednesday, including the brazen effort to muzzle Trillanes, was definitely a sad day for justice and fairness," said House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla.

It was clear, he said, that the commission was not after the truth but the exoneration of the Macapagal administration from the charges aired by the mutineers.

Rep. Ted Failon of Leyte said the commission should stop acting like the prosecution arm of the government.

He said the commission members behaved like prosecutors interrogating witnesses with the purpose of discrediting their testimony.

He also said the commission was more interested in digging up dirt against the mutiny leaders instead of getting inputs from them.

Padilla said Trillanes was cut short at every turn and denied the right to speak freely on matters relevant to the inquiry.

"Complainants in rape cases are allowed to state things as they are. They are given the full freedom to talk about the tragic things that took place, including unprintables. Why was Trillanes virtually gagged?" he said.

Padilla also said Mario Ongkiko, chief counsel for the commission, was particularly hard on Trillanes as the officer was recounting what transpired during his meeting last month with the President.

"Ongkiko invoked discourtesy to the Commander in Chief," he said. "But Trillanes cannot say it otherwise. Trillanes is a witness and not a shill of Malacañang."

Padilla said Trillanes' discourtesy to the President should be subordinate to his telling the truth. "Congress is interested in the truth, not in a whitewash," the lawmaker added.

Failon likewise said the commission was more interested in finding a connection between the mutineers and Honasan.

"I thought this is an independent fact-finding investigation? It looks to me that it's more of a collaboration to pin down Senator Honasan and discredit the soldiers who took part in the mutiny," he said.

Failon called on the commission to be impartial in its investigation by hearing the testimony not only of the mutineers but also of all available resource persons, including representatives of the government.

'Mutiny as spontaneous as World Trade attack'

From page A1

investigate the mutiny, the leaders of the Magdalo group failed to convince administration senators of the veracity of the claim Trillanes made before the Feliciano Commission.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said that while he could not speak for his colleagues, "as a lawyer, after hearing the testimonies, I do not believe that it was a spontaneous incident."

Drilon said there were too many indications to show that the mutiny was pre-planned.

Absurd

At Camp Aguinaldo, top military officials dismissed Trillanes' claim as "absurd" and a "lie."

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff, said this contradicted "Oplan Campaign Andres," the alleged blueprint of the mutiny that was found at the Oakwood Premier building in Makati and that supposedly detailed the renegades' plot to seize power in conspiracy with civilian officials.

"That's absurd; they had this grand design and that's the Oplan Andres..." Garcia said, adding:

"Spontaneous action cannot guarantee the presence of soldiers. It was stated in the Oplan Andres that when their security is compromised, they would retreat to the Glorietta, and it was followed to the letter."

Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, who quit as chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP two days after the July 27 mutiny but is not retiring from the service until October next year, echoed Garcia's position.

"That's a lie! That was well-planned. We knew about their plans from the start," Corpus said in a phone interview.

He said that military intelligence agents uncovered the mutiny plot months before July, and that the plot was hatched as early as last year.

"He [Trillanes] was the chair of the honor committee at the PMA (Philippine Military Academy), yet he's now advocating lying," Corpus said. "It's so sad to think that this is happening to these people who claim to be idealistic."

'Mini-modernization'

At the Senate hearing on Thursday, Sen. Ralph Recto noted that the military recovered caches of arms, including 244 high-caliber firearms and ammunition and C-4 explosives, in the aftermath of the mutiny.

"All those who watched [the TV coverage] would think that a coup d' etat had been planned," he said.

Recto noted that the Magdalo soldiers appeared well equipped, citing the new combat boots, camouflage uniforms and backpacks that showed as if there were "a mini-modernization within their ranks."

He also raised the fact that the mutineers came from different branches of the AFP detailed in various camps across the country. "It's very hard to believe that you came together spontaneously to express your grievances," he said.

Flags ordered in June

Sen. Manuel Villar pointed out that the Magdalo armbands were ordered as early as June and delivered in the first week of July.

"Someone gave me an affidavit," he said.

At the Department of Justice, Undersecretary Jose Calida made a similar disclosure, saying: "How could that be spontaneous when they ordered their flags in June?"

He added: "The facts and the evidence so far submitted do not support that gratuitous remark. Of course, [Trillanes] was trying to steer [the hearing] away from allegations of conspiracy. But it strains credulity."

Calida said an Ensign Armand Potejos even tried to hide his identity when he ordered the flags from the International Flag House firm located at 973 Rizal Avenue, Manila, and owned by a certain Pablo de Jesus Tan Gatue.

"If we take into account the people who were mobilized and who went there, and those who were stopped by the government, it cannot be just a spur of the moment. They were planning to stage a coup," Calida said.

He also noted that the military had discovered plans on the takeover of radio station dzRH as well as maps of Makati in one of the vans the renegades allegedly left in Sangley Point, Cavite, on July 26.

Arrogance

The President threw back the charge of arrogance to Trillanes, who had accused her of it and said she kept on "yakking" when they met in Malacañang on July 13.

"I am glad that the Feliciano Commission and the Senate decided to open the hearings to the public so that everyone can see this arrogant and absurd attempt to cover up treason at the highest levels of the body politic," she said.

She promised that the full breadth of the supposed conspiracy would be exposed, and full retribution imposed on those who led it.

The President also denied Trillanes' claim that she berated him during their meeting.

"I listened to him for one hour and a half," she pointed out, and described the officer as "misguided and very dangerous."

Ms Macapagal's chief of staff, Rigoberto Tiglao, said the "mind-boggling" preparations for the mutiny belied the claim that it was spontaneous.

Tell that to the Marines

"Tell that to the Marines," Tiglao said. "With all the evidence, new uniforms, stealth occupation of Oakwood, staging houses, movement of their units from Mindanao to Metro Manila, deployment of explosives, commercial communication equipment, camel-back canteens, supporters going to Oakwood—all the preparations— its mind-boggling for them to claim so, and an insult to the public's intelligence.

"Their defense of spontaneity itself shows their preparations on the legal front."

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said Trillanes' testimony before the Feliciano Commission clearly showed that the Magdalo group's real objective was to grab power.

For instance, Lina said, Trillanes told the commission that prior to the failed coup the Magdalo group refused to participate in a Senate inquiry regarding corruption in the military for fear that they would not be able to rejoin their units.

"If the real purpose of the mutineers is to express their grievances, then why did they not express it in the halls of the Senate? Why in Oakwood?" Lina said, adding in Filipino:

"They said at Oakwood that they were not afraid to die. But they are afraid of a Senate inquiry, that they won't be able to return to their posts?" *Reports from Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza and Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Trillanes' ma furious at son's tormentors

By Edson Tandoc Jr. and Leila B. Salaverria

THE MOTHER known for her cool lost it yesterday as she recounted to the INQUIRER how administration Sen. Noli de Castro allegedly tried to besmirch the reputation of her son, mutiny leader Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV.

Tension gripped yesterday's Senate inquiry after De Castro pointedly asked Trillanes about his family's three Delica vans, which are registered under the Navy officer's name. An annoyed Trillanes raised his voice and told the senator he never stole a single centavo from the government, if that was what De Castro implied.

A furious Estelita Trillanes said that based on his question, De Castro seemed to have been instructed by someone else, who was mounting a "demolition job against Sonny (her son's nickname)."

"He (De Castro) does not have a mind of his own," an annoyed Estelita said.

But the National Bureau of Investigation director said Trillanes, a Navy lieutenant, could actually be held liable for not including his ownership of a total of seven vehicles in his statement of assets and liabilities.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the NBI had also been able to obtain from the Land Transportation Office a list of seven vehicles registered under Trillanes' name.

The Navy man had said his mother owned the vans and were registered under his name.

"Those (vans) are legal and legitimately acquired," said Estelita, who admitted she was the one who bought the vans being referred to by De Castro. She added that she got the vans through a bank loan. She originally bought three, but had to sell one of the vans to "sustain the two."

But Estelita said she registered it under her son's name so her other children could not easily convince her to sell the remaining vans.

"Sonny is strict, that is why I put the vans under his name. I was afraid that if I had the vans under my name, my children could easily convince me to sell it, just like what happened with our first van," she said.

She added that she gave the two remaining vans to her two other sons, who each used his van as a source of income.

The mother also reacted to statements released by Malacañang officials saying that her son was lying. But Estelita said she believed her son.

"The truth will prevail. God will not allow lies," the mother said, adding that her son was really detained after his meeting with the President.

She said she had expected that officials would try to destroy the name of her son. However, Estelita said she still "maintains high respect for the President."

'Green Base' papers set off Makati revolt

m page A1

the documents were fake. And late in the daylong hearing, opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, succeeded in getting the officers to agree with him that the documents did not amount to an "oplan" (operation plan).

Trillanes said he acquired from secret sources both documents. First was a memo of instruction from President Macapagal-Arroyo approving the alleged plan and naming Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita as the official in charge. The second was a document instructing Ermita to the plan in operation.

Trillanes and Gambala said their possession of the documents prompted the government to hunt them down, in turn triggering their decision to mutiny.

Gambala told the senators that the government was after them, initially Trillanes, because of the documents. "If you have that kind of evidence, you can be picked up," he said.

But Reyes said the "evidence" did not exist.

"These documents are fake," Reyes said, noting that terrorism was not government policy.

This remark prompted Minority Leader Vicente Sotto to ask Reyes that if he said it was a fake document, then there must be an original document.

"When I say fake, I didn't mean duplicate," Reyes replied. "What I said this is a fake document, not an official document. The President didn't sign it, Secretary Ermita didn't sign it. Somebody printed it to deceive (the) people ... that this is the major basis for the Oakwood incident."

Biazon's oplan

Under questioning from Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, the officers admitted that neither of the two documents contained the elements that characterize an operation plan.

Biazon identified the components of an oplan as follows: Situation, mission, execution, logistics, communication.

When the officers were asked whether any of the documents contained these components, they said No.

Capt. Milo Maestrecampo repeated his testimony before the Feliciano Commission the other day that he was instructed to be part of a special operations team to bomb a mosque in Davao City in the aftermath of the bombing of the city's Sasa wharf.

He said he told his superior that he did not have the team to do that. But he noted that in April a mosque in the city was in fact bombed.

Maestrecampo said he didn't know who finally carried out the bombing. "You don't have to graduate from elementary to deduce that. Probably they were able to form another group to do it," he said.

Maestrecampo said it was his battalion commander who gave him the instructions. He refused to identify him to senators, saying that the latter was also merely following instructions.

It was later learned that Maestrecampo was referring to a certain Major Paje, commanding officer of the Scout Ranger Regiment in Mawab, Davao del Norte.

Police reaction

PNP Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame, yesterday said Reyes and Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, could not have been involved in the Davao bombings.

Matillano told the INQUIRER that when his office investigated the bombing incidents at the Davao International Airport and in Sasa wharf, the names of Reyes and Corpus never surfaced.

"That's not true," Matillano said. "In fairness to Secretary Reyes and General Corpus, that's not true because we investigated the bombing incidents," Matillano said.

He said that several suspects had been arrested by his men shortly after the incidents and are now under detention.

Matillano said the suspects admitted that they were asked by an MILF commander to bring a bag containing a bomb to a waiting shed outside the airport for a fee of P20,000 each.

On Maestracampo's claim that Corpus was seen in Sasa Wharf during the bombing, Matillano said the general's presence was nothing out of the ordinary.

"Of course, he is the Isafp chief and a general. That's his area of responsibility ... What's wrong with Corpus being seen around the country?" he asked.

Matillano also said the Green Base papers were fake since Ermita had already denied he had signed any such document.

Corpus yesterday also denied Maestrecampo's claim.

"As the chair of the commission had pointed out, it was illogical to conclude that just because I was there, I had something to do with it. Does it prove anything if I was there? It's simply illogical," Corpus said in a phone interview. *With reports from Cynthia Balana, TJ Burgonio*

Blood compacts ...

From page A1

Quoting a source who was reportedly present, Cabuay said opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan had attended the secret affair.

Honasan has been tagged as a mastermind of the failed mutiny and has since gone into hiding.

"Now that the blood compact has been proven to have happened, our claim that Senator Honasan might be involved in the coup [has been] validated," said Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

Gambala was the valedictorian of Class '95 of the Philippine Military Academy, some of whose members formed the core group of officers that rose in mini-rebellion against the government and the hierarchy of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Asked how many officers had participated in the blood compact, Gambala said: "It all started between the two of us." He was referring to Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, another officer facing mutiny charges."

The blood compact did not happen just once, Gambala said, but took place at different times in several places.

One of the blood compacts occurred right after the PMA alumni anniversary in February in Manila, he said. "(It happened) inside my quarters with my classmates."

Gambala, however, said he was not sure if other classmates and other junior officers had made blood compacts with their "mistahs."

He said the blood was used to write the red "I" representing the old Filipino alphabet letter Ka, on their armbands.

Gambala, however, refused to raise his arm to show if the letter "I" had been etched near his armpit reportedly where the blood compact participants had drawn their blood.

Gambala said he refused to show if he had the mark as "a matter of [his] defense in court." He and the other mutiny leaders are also facing charges in the civilian courts.

When Biazon asked Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV, the spokesperson of the rebel soldiers, if he had participated in the blood compacts, he did not answer.

"Let it be placed on record that Lieutenant Trillanes was shaking his head," said Senate President Franklin Drilon, noting the reaction of the defiant Navy officer.

Lina said the government allegation that Honasan was involved in the rebellion was validated by Gambala's revelation.

"Therefore, Maj. Perfecto Ragil's testimony was true after all. He had said that Senator Honasan was present in one of these blood compacts," said Lina.

Ragil had claimed he attended a meeting of the Magdalo group but later withdrew his support for the mutineers.

Gringo plot to kill Erap overtaken by events

From page A1

said, was the future.

On Jan. 17, 2001, the day after the Senate impeachment court voted 11-10 against opening the second envelope containing documents pertaining to Estrada's alleged P3.2-billion secret account in Equitable PCIBank, Maligalig was at RAM headquarters on Filmore Street in Makati racing against time.

He was calling up RAM leaders to firm up their support for the people who were gathered at the Edsa Shrine, and to ask Honasan to lay his cards on the table.

Honasan promised to attend the meeting, Maligalig said, but only to explain his vote at the Senate impeachment trial to a few RAM confidants.

"I don't want to be judged by people who are not my peers. I want to be judged by people who were with me in the battles and in my detention," Maligalig quoted Honasan as saying.

The protagonists

Little did Maligalig and the rest of the group know that a coup plot against Estrada was already in the offing and that some of them were even unwitting participants.

At the meeting, Honasan was confronted by colleagues in the RAM executive committee, who wanted to know why he voted against the opening of the second envelope, according to Maligalig.

The RAMboys had always been anti-Estrada, he said.

Aside from Honasan and Maligalig, those who made it to the meeting were retired Gen. Edgardo Abenina, retired Navy Commodore Domingo Calajate (then RAM president), retired Col. Billy Bibit (now customs collector in Cebu), Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano and retired Navy Capt. Jaime Lucas.

At one point, Maligalig asked Honasan if he would join them at the barricades to support the people at Edsa. Honasan was nonchalant, then told them to just do what they wanted to do because as Estrada's *"kumpare,"* he would vote for the acquittal of the President.

Group training

According to Maligalig's account, Bibit then asked Honasan, "Sir Greg, what do I do with the men you asked me prepare in Bacolod, who have been training but are now under surveillance by Ping's PAOCTF?" Ping is Sen. Panfilo Lacson, then chief of the Philippine National Police and head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Honasan reportedly retorted: "Billy, all of us know the risks when we started this."

Matillano, now director and chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame, interjected, *"P... mo mistah.* All these years *pala, ginagamit mo lang kami para kay* (you were using us on behalf of) Enrile," and moved to hit Honasan. (Enrile is Juan Ponce Enrile, the defense minister who broke away from Marcos in 1986 and triggered Edsa I).

The proverbial cooler heads, Abenina and Calajate, intervened, while Maligalig brought back the discussion to RAM's position.

It was then that they learned Honasan had recruited Bibit, Matillano and Berroya, and only the three of them, for a coup against Estrada using men the three would mobilize.

GREGORIO HONASAN

HONASAN: Not hiding, just inaccessible TV GRAB GMA 7

Maligalig took the occasion to ask three questions: With what (would the coup be executed)? Who is going to be installed in case of victory? How do you govern?

Honasan refused to answer, Maligalig recalled.

Raising his voice, Maligalig then said that he did not like the idea that his senator-friend would not lift a finger to stop the Paoctf should Lacson order a raid on RAM headquarters.

RAM as savior

Many times after Edsa II, Maligalig would try to corner Honasan during their RAM meetings to seek answers.

"He (Honasan) said, 'Sir, *kaya lumalapit ako kay Erap, para masuntok ko sa ilong* (I want to get near Erap so I can punch him in the nose).' Exact words," Maligalig said.

Asked if Honasan was joking, Maligalig said the senator was serious, because they ended up shouting at each other.

"Finally he tells me, '*gusto mo* (If you like), Sir, *ako pa ang babaril kay Erap eh* (I myself will shoot Erap).' I will quote that. I have witnesses," Maligalig said.

He continued: "Finally, he admitted it but I didn't get it. To me, *nasira na ang ulo eh* (he lost his mind). Irrational. Although *ang palusot niya* (his excuse) after the fact, 'Sir, *ganoon eh* (it's like that). The reason why we voted for acquittal is to build a revolutionary situation *na yung galit ng sambayanan* (in which an enraged people) would be ready to have people power, then *papasok ang* RAM as the savior.'"

"Eh tanga, na-overtake kami (But he was stupid, so we were overtaken by events). *Kung alam namin, kung naplano, sabi ko maganda* (If we knew the plan and did it properly, I said it would be fine)because timing *ang pagpasok ng* RAM."

Two battalions

But Honasan, according to Maligalig, was just talking of two battalions that would enter Malacañang and get Estrada.

"So *ano ang ibig sabihin* (what did it mean)? No! it was not a coup. It was assassination. *Papasukin, papatayin si* (They will enter Malacañang and kill) Erap," he said.

He said he did not talk about the 2001 coup plan after the Oakwood incident because it might be seen as a cheap attempt to link Honasan to the July 27 mutiny.

But he said he knew there was a general call for the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. in Metro Manila and in nearby provinces to mass at Edsa on July 26 and 27 ostensibly for an anti-Sona (State of the Nation Address) protest.

"To me, personally, the timing was in the very least suspect. I personally participated in at least two anti-Sona activities in the past and these were more effective if done on the day of the Sona itself," he said. (The President delivered the Sona on July 28.)

Timely defection

According to military sources, the timely defection of Reyes and Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado to Edsa II participants in all likelihood saved Estrada from what could have been a bloody coup from another section of the military.

The sources said Reyes, now defense secretary and also a *"kumpare"* of Estrada, knew of the coup plot.

"Erap did not know it, but Reyes and Mercado actually saved his life. Had they not defected on time, Erap would have been killed and delivered to the angry mob in Edsa," the sources said.

It was Reyes who fetched Estrada in Malacañang and informed the latter that he was no longer in command of the AFP.

The timely arrival of Reyes in Malacañang, the sources pointed out, could have preempted the coup plotters from striking Malacañang and arresting Estrada.

Revolutionary situation

Asked by the INQUIRER about the plot, Reyes said he knew about it but he said the details were still not clear to him at that time.

Before Edsa II, Reyes said, there were reports and "very strong indications" that some people were going to exploit the tense atmosphere to create a revolutionary situation.

Both the leftists and the rightists were ready to come in, he said, and in the process, the AFP would be called upon to go after the people at Edsa.

"I can't allow a situation in which the future of our children will be jeopardized. In a situation like this, we would not want the Armed Forces divided," Reyes said.

He said he did not want to remain AFP chief of staff and to take orders from rightist dictators.

"I felt that even if the rightist plot succeeded, it was a matter of time before I, as chief of staff, would break up with them," Reyes said.

"So, I said I must as well do it now while my decision mattered. Because the moment the Armed Forces is divided, there's very little that the chief of staff can do," he said.

The moment any administration lost that ability to govern, Reyes said, there would be chaos and blood in the streets, making the situation not easily reversible.

But why was it all right for the AFP chief of staff to turn his back on his commander in chief in Edsa II and not for junior officers like Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV in Oakwood in 2003?

"You know in Edsa II, I solved a problem. In Oakwood, they created a problem. They did not solve the problem," Reyes said.

"In Edsa II, I responded to the call of the people and there was no money involved. I did not conspire and I risked a lot. I was in position."

(Tomorrow: Honasan in the eyes of the RAMboys)

Mutineers freely air their gripes

From page A1

ident during a provincial sortie if he had wanted to, but said his group did not want to kill her. He said this to prove that an assassination was not part of the group's plans.

Protest action

The officers insisted that the Senate probe deal with alleged military and government corruption, but their insistence tested the patience of the senators.

Some of the officers went so far as to compare their 20-hour armed takeover of the Oakwood hotel in Makati City to street protests by leftist activists, with Gambala calling it a "protest action."

But Drilon reminded the mutineers that their use of firearms and explosives to back up demands that the President and other top officials step down took their action beyond the bounds of legal protest.

"You carry arms and that's the big difference," he said.

Trillanes, acknowledged as the chief spokesperson for the mutineers, said the sole objective of the armed takeover was "to tell the people (about) the anomalies in this government and the Armed Forces."

The aborted mutiny was to protest alleged misdeeds by members of government, the junior officers testified. "We consider most of the generals of the AFP to be corrupt," Trillanes said, adding that his group could prove the claim.

But opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel told the junior officers: "At this point you have no hard evidence that any of your group have pointed out to establish the veracity" of the accusations against the government.

Heated exchange

Trillanes blew his top after senators asked him to explain his supposed questionable wealth and his motives behind the July 27 military rebellion.

When De Castro asked him why the FYI polling and consultancy firm he was an incorporator of bought five Delica vans from him, Trillanes said the senator got his facts wrong. He said it was the other way around; it was FYI which sold the vehicles to his mother.

FYI, he said, had acquired the vehicles for the use of the firm's survey teams, but these vehicles were "underused," thus prompting the company president to sell them.

Trillanes said his mother decided to engage in a car rental service so she took out a loan in 2000 to purchase the vehicles.

Trillanes admitted that the vehicles were under his name, prompting De Castro to ask him why this was so.

Trillanes said there was a reason for this, but noted that his "mother might be incriminated but it's in relation to a loan she got late 2000."

Pressed again by De Castro to explain, Trillanes said: "Well, *kung mag-default man yung payments, yung concern niya na hindi mahila yun mga sasakyan* (If she had defaulted on the loan payments, my mother was concerned that the vehicles should not be taken away)."

Pressed by De Castro, Trillanes said, "I'm not sure about the wisdom behind it, sir."

"*Anong* wisdom *dito*? It was your mother who took out a loan, and the vehicles were under your name," De Castro said.

This remark prompted Trillanes to shoot back: "I think you're implying something. I didn't steal anything from the government, if you're implying that, sir."

Drilon tried to restore order, but as De Castro and Trillanes continued to exchange words, the latter's microphone was switched off.

De Castro made it clear that he was not implying anything, even as he pressed the officer for an explanation.

"In that case I invoke my right to remain silent on that question," Trillanes said, ending the exchange.

No assassin

Alejano, who said he joined the mutiny to support his fellow junior officers, told the Senate: "It was never in my mind to ambush or assassinate the President because if I did (want to kill her), I would have done it long ago."

Officials have claimed that infiltrators within Ms Macapagal's security detail planned to lure her into an ambush as part of their bid to seize power and install a 15-member junta.

Alejano, a Marine, was responsible for billeting the President on one of her sorties to the South. "I could have planted explosives in her bed" if he had really wanted to kill her, he said.

All the officers insisted that their mutiny was a spontaneous action that followed threats of violence and arrest brought against them.

"This is not a coup d'etat. If it says in our law .... that (our action) constitutes a crime of coup d'etat, then we are ready to face that in court," Trillanes said.

In his testimony, he reiterated demands that top officials including the President and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes step down.

Reyes, who sat beside him, looked irritated, and rose to distribute copies of the allegedly inflammatory documents that the government has disclaimed as fake.

Capt. Milo Maestrecampo said the operation was not about "military adventurism."

"This is about a dying society," he said, "a society that favors the rich over the poor."

Administration Sen. Robert Jaworski said, however, that if all the disgruntled people in the Philippines take up arms outside of the law, "this country is going to disintegrate."

Focus on corruption

At one point, Drilon had to admonish Trillanes after the officer raised his voice and pleaded that the issue at hand was corruption in the government and the AFP and nothing else.

"The AFP is corrupt, the government is corrupt. That's it, lets focus on that," a frustrated Trillanes told the senators, in response to a query of administration Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., on whether his group acted on their own.

"If we can't accept the government is corrupt and the AFP is corrupt, then we will not go anywhere. That is the message, plain and simple. Let's focus on that, please."

Trillanes' remarks drew Drilon's ire. The Senate president asked him "not to dictate on the queries that the senators place on you."

"We ask the questions. This is pursuant to a resolution passed by the Senate. You are (a) resource person, you answer the questions raised by the senators and in a polite manner. You're being admonished," Drilon said.

In another verbal tussle, administration Sen. Joker Arroyo pressed Trillanes on the group's motive behind the July 27 uprising.

Trillanes reminded Arroyo that the latter himself walked out during the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada in 2001. Arroyo corrected Trillanes, saying he and fellow government prosecutors in the trial did not walk out; it was the private lawyers who did.

Arroyo then challenged Trillanes to resign so his group could air their grievances. BUt Trillanes replied that resigning would be the "easiest way out and would not solve the problems" in the military.

Other highlights

During the hearing, the Senate's third, Trillanes hurled one accusation after another. At one point, he accused Reyes of receiving P20 million in exchange for promoting Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon as the Navy's flag officer in command. Reyes strongly denied the charge.

Drilon asked Maj. Emilio Edgardo de Leon, Reyes' administrative officer, to testify on the business proposal submitted by FYI to the Department of National Defense. De Leon noted that Reyes' office received a letter of proposal dated April 25 this year, asking the DND to subscribe to the services of FYI. One such service was a comprehensive survey, for a fee of P25,000. De Leon said the defense secretary's instruction was to "ignore" the proposal. De Leon said Reyes' office received a second letter, dated May 18, 2003, "reminding" the secretary of the proposal.

To all of this, Trillanes merely said: "I was not aware the letter was sent."

The officers also told the senators the firearms and communication equipment they had were all issued by the government and did not come from anyone else. Maestrecampo, for instance, said that the Light Reaction Company members who joined them brought their US rifles and firearms.

Trillanes also said that the officers did not have any food supplies with them and had to take some P20,000 worth of canned goods from the nearby Rustan's Supermarket. But they left an IOU note at the supermarket.

Alejano disclosed that the vehicles they used in going to Oakwood were either rented or borrowed from friends. Alejano said that they also "commandeered" some vehicles, including dump trucks.

Explaining further, he said that they stopped some vehicles in Cavite and "commandeered" them.

Meastrecampo said that he commuted going to Oakwood while fellow Ranger officers did the same.

Just as Drilon was about to adjourn the hearing, Interior Sec. Jose Lina said he had evidence that the mutineers had bought buses to ferry their companions. The vehicles were worth P2.5 million, he said, and they were paid for in cash.

With reports from AFP; Michael Lim Ubac, Gil Cabacungan Jr.; Reuters

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Militant group backs Trillanes, agrees GMA is arrogant

A MILITANT fisherfolk group agrees with the claim of Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV that President Macapagal-Arroyo is an arrogant Chief Executive.

"It is a fact," said Gerry Albert Corpuz, spokesperson of Pamalakaya. "The President is in that arrogant mood all the time. In fact, she's the most arrogant President this country has ever had."

Corpuz also said Mario Ongkiko, chief counsel of the Feliciano Commission, expressed his bias Wednesday when warning Trillanes to watch his language in describing the President.

"Why is it hard for the Feliciano Commission to determine what is fact and what is opinion?" Corpuz said.

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said the members of the commission should be reminded of loyalty and accountability.

"Are they serving at the pleasure of President Macapagal-Arroyo, or the 80 million Filipino people?" Hicap said. "This should be established to determine if the commission will work along the lines of national interest, fair play and objectivity, or along Malacañang's own political play."

Norman Bordadora

Gambala: Why I chose Oakwood

From page A1

that he checked into the Oakwood Premier Hotel a full week before he and his fellow junior officers took it over on July 27.

"Why not Shangri-La?" an amused Drilon countered. Gambala said he preferred Oakwood, and that it was not that often that he stayed in such a place.

"I was being hunted, that's the safest place," said Gambala, who disclosed that he registered under the name "Uy."

Getting into a rare jocular mood during the Senate hearings yesterday, Gambala said he knew that intelligence agents wouldn't look for him at Oakwood because they couldn't afford the rates.

Paid with own money

In answer to a question of Sen. Juan Flavier, Gambala said he paid for his hotel room with his own money, about P45,000 for his one-week stay at Oakwood.

Asked by Drilon how he could afford such an amount, Gambala said that for the eight years that he was assigned to Mindanao, he had saved from P600,000 to P700,000.

In expressing skepticism over the Magdalo group's claim that their action had been "spontaneous," some senators like Manuel Villar, Ralph Recto and Drilon made much of the fact that some of the mutiny leaders may have checked in at the Oakwood days before the 20-hour mutiny.

Gambala said he was the only one that checked in earlier than the day of the mutiny itself.

'Territory of enemy'

Asked why the disgruntled junior officers didn't mount their mutiny in the military camps instead of Oakwood, Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV said that the camp was the "territory of the enemy" referring to the generals, most of whom were corrupt, he said.

From the hotel, Gambala said that he and Trillanes asked over 300 officers and enlisted men to come to Oakwood through the help of their classmates at the Philippine Military Academy.

"Everybody is aware that we are in the age of information, that's why we were able to coordinate with each other quickly," Trillanes said.

Asked what the officers told their respective men to make them go to Oakwood, Gambala said that he told his fellow officers that they needed help to protect and support him and the other Magdalo leaders who were being hunted by the government.

As though to stress that the mutiny last month was spontaneous, Capt. Milo Maestrecampo testified that most of the men at Oakwood did not have firearms with them.

But Sen. Rodolfo Biazon recounted that when he went to Oakwood, he found the soldiers armed and in battle positions, and the area around the hotel ringed with explosives.

Noynoy clears Danding in Ninoy assassination

From page A1

"Noynoy" Aquino III, son of the opposition leader who was gunned down in broad daylight at the then Manila International Airport on Aug. 21, 1983 upon his return from a three-year exile in the United States.

The assassination sparked massive street demonstrations, culminating in the 1986 Edsa "People Power" Revolution that toppled the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and swept the opposition leader's widow, Corazon C. Aquino, to the presidency.

Sixteen military officers and soldiers were subsequently convicted of the murder of Aquino and Rolando Galman, his alleged assassin. But the masterminds were never caught or even identified.

It was widely believed, however, that Marcos had ordered his then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver to kill Aquino, who was however the dictator's chief political rival.

Most are dead

"We believe we know who the masterminds were and most of them are dead," Representative Aquino yesterday told reporters. But he declined to identify these masterminds.

The young Aquino said that his family knew of at least two persons who may have had intimate knowledge of the assassination plot. Again, he declined to identify the two potential witnesses who, according to him, were now settled abroad.

Even so, the young Aquino said he didn't believe Cojuangco, a close associate of Marcos, had anything to do with the killing. Cojuangco and Ms Aquino are first cousins.

"I don't think so," the young Aquino said in reply to a reporter's query whether Cojuangco may have had a hand in the killing.

"My uncle (Cojuangco) and dad (were) close," the young Aquino said. "They went back a long time before they parted ways over Marcos."

Help mortgage payment

He said Cojuangco may have gone along with Marcos' schemes to make life difficult for Aquino. "Only for minimum compliance but not to the extent of ...," the young Aquino said, without finishing the sentence.

When the Aquinos were living in exile in the United States, Cojuangco even helped out in mortgage payments for the family home in Boston, the congressman said.

Marcos, Ver and Cojuangco fled at the height of Edsa I. Marcos and Ver both died in exile. Ver was indicted by an independent fact-finding board that investigated the Aquino assassination, but was acquitted together with all the accused soldiers in a Sandiganbayan trial.

Had Ver been tried in the second trial during the Aquino administration, he would certainly have been convicted with the 16 soldiers. To this day, the soldiers who are serving life terms insist it was Galman who had killed Aquino.

Cojuangco, who returned from exile in the 1990s, ran but lost in the 1992 presidential election. During the Estrada administration, he became head of San Miguel Corp. He reportedly plans to run in the 2004 presidential election.

Prescription period

Congressman Aquino said the 20-year prescription period for the Aquino-Galman double murder case would not apply to any new suspect if new evidence were uncovered.

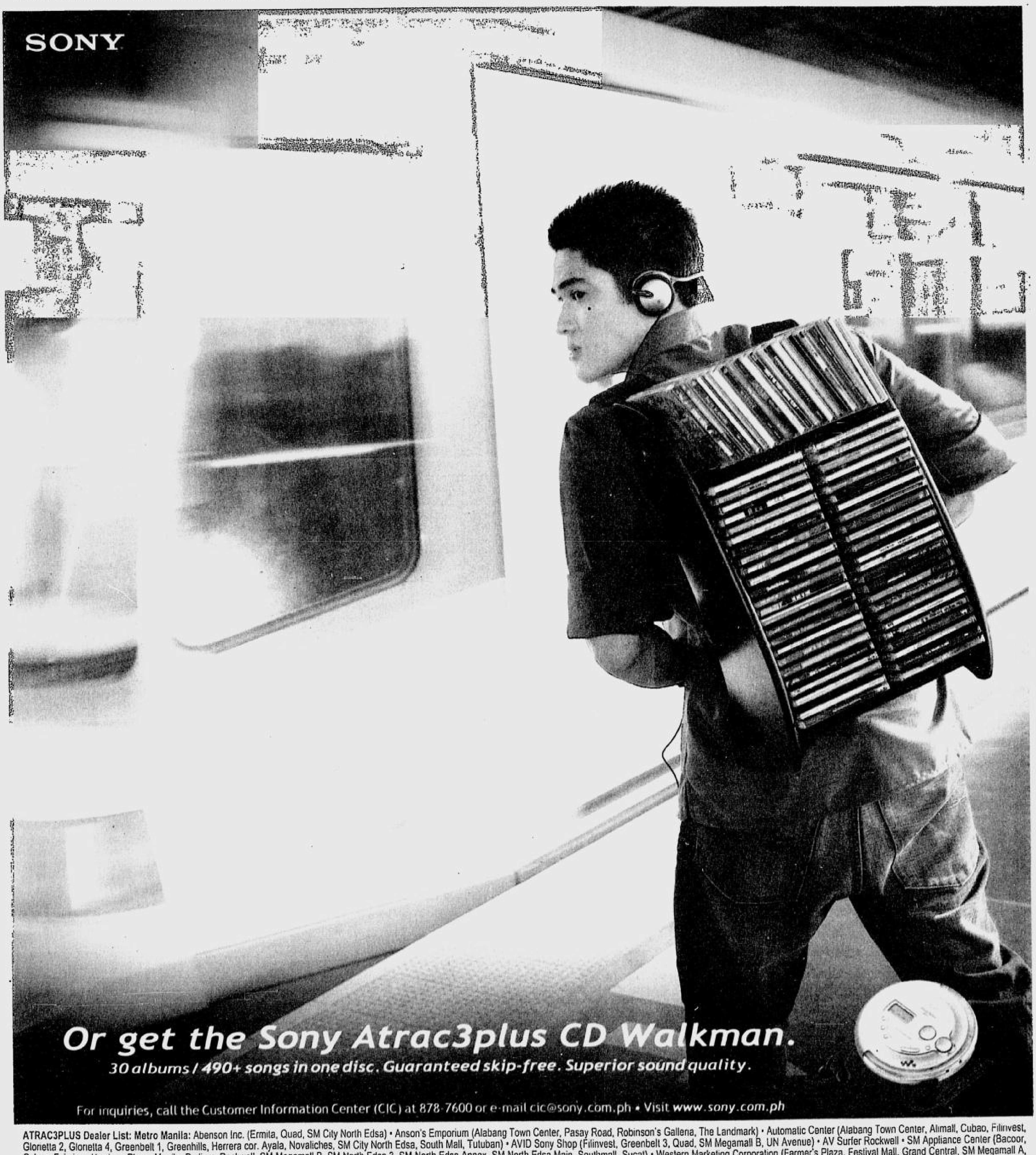
The charge sheet that had been filed in court included several 'John Does" as respondents, he said.

"The prescription period starts when the court acquires jurisdiction over the accused," the young Aquino explained.

Even so, he said, there has been talk within the intelligence community that certain witnesses would surface when the 20-year prescription period would lapse on Aug. 21.

"These are supposed to be tell-all accounts," the young Aquino said.

NOYNOY Aquino



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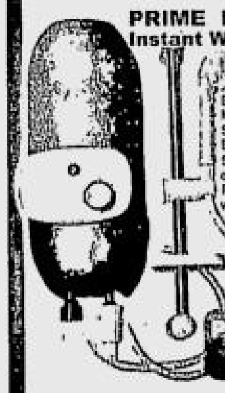

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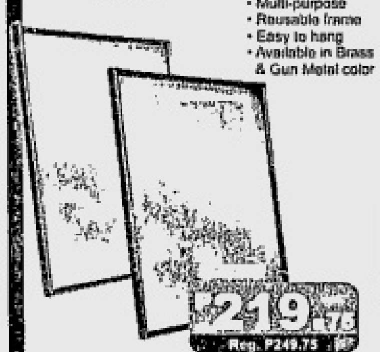

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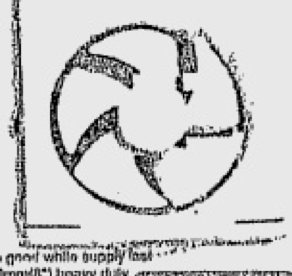

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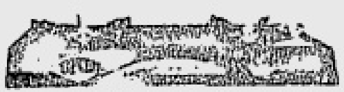

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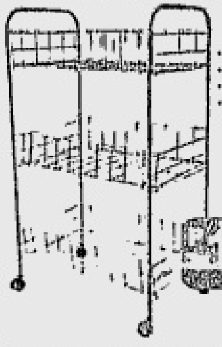

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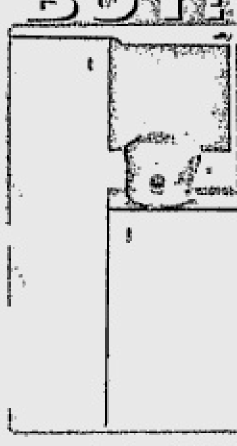

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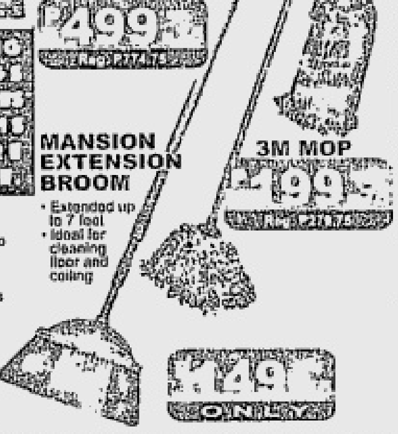

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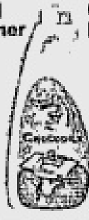

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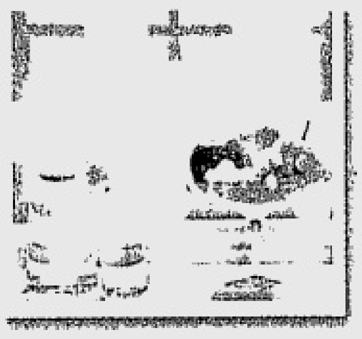

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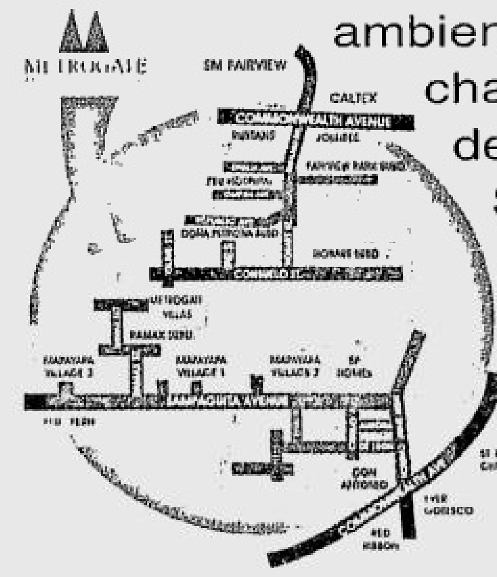

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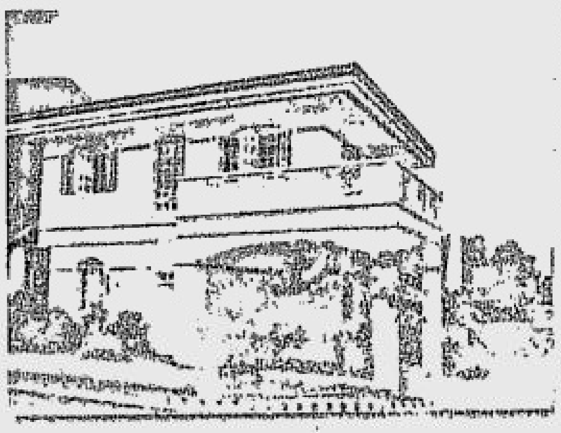

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METRO

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

No more street basketball

MMDA to remove courts on roads

By Margaux Ortiz

THE NATION'S most beloved sport has no place in Metro Manila streets.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday said that he has instructed MMDA personnel to remove basketball courts constructed on roads and sidewalks.

"The roads were not intended to be playgrounds," Fernando said in a phone interview. "They were meant to be used by motorists, not basketball players."

He said that it was not right to close the roads just to accommodate people who want to play basketball.

He explained that when traffic builds up on main thoroughfares, motorists are left with few or no alternative routes because obstructions, like basketball courts, have been put up in the middle of streets.

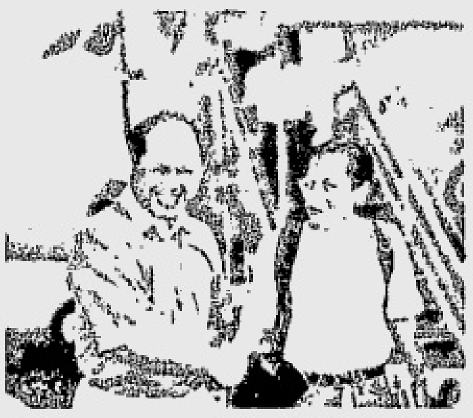
The MMDA chair added that he would have the "hardheaded ones" arrested and jailed if they would persist on taking over the streets.

Fernando said that sport enthusiasts should find more appropriate places to play basketball, like gyms or designated covered courts.

"If they really want to play basketball and still insist on doing it on the roads and sidewalks, I'm now telling them that it's time to look for another sport," he warned.

PEOPLE playing basketball in the streets, like what these boys are doing in a flooded part of Navotas, may soon be a thing of the past—if MMDA's Fernando were to have his way. EDWIN BACASMAS

We made it to this newspaper's deadline.



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Eco groups hold tight tree watch

By Tina Santos

ON ELECTION time, expect no vote to come Bayani Fernando's way from ecology-friendly groups.

Environment groups yesterday launched the "Bantay Bayani Fernando" committee, a group that will monitor the activities of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair, particularly the cutting of trees in Metro Manila.

Fernando, who has announced his plan to run as vice president, has been under fire from environment groups for his controversial order to cut down trees to widen thoroughfares prone to traffic congestion.

"(Fernando) should not expect votes from us," said a member of the environment group Concerned Citizens against Pollution (Cocap). "His brutality towards Mother Earth, particularly the trees, would not bring in the desired ... votes. All Metro Manila voters are tree lovers."

"Fernando is not really promoting order (in the streets), he's promoting himself," said Fr. Robert Reyes, the man who proposed the creation of the committee. "We have to do something. If he would be elected, he would have a grand time cutting down trees nationwide."

Ofelia Panganiban, a member of Cocap, said she felt very sad and helpless when she saw that the trees on Katipunan and Quezon avenues were being cut down.

She said she saw 20 men in MMDA uniform balling and cutting down trees planted in the center island from Sto. Domingo Church to Welcome Rotonda.

"I felt so depressed, I couldn't do anything," Panganiban told the INQUIRER. "I wanted to shout at (the MMDA men)."

In a phone interview, MMDA traffic operations director Angel Vergel de Dios said he was not aware that trees were being cut in the area.

But he revealed that there is a road-widening plan for the area, particularly on Araneta Avenue leading to Welcome Rotonda, and this did not include the removal of trees in the center island.

Coordinate first, mayor tells Marines

By Luige del Puerto

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos, Jr. yesterday said he would welcome Philippine Marines in his city, but only if they would "coordinate properly" with the local police.

Abalos said that he sees nothing wrong with Marines guarding the SM Megamall, Robinson's Galeria or the Shangri-La complex.

Mandaluyong, San Juan and Pasig are home to four of the biggest malls in Metro Manila.

"This was done before and it was a success," Abalos said, recalling the times when military men on high alert helped augment local lawmen in securing critical areas. "I will welcome Marines into my city as long as they coordinate properly with the police."

Abalos was reacting to reports that the government may deploy Marines in key areas to protect vital installations from terrorist attacks in the wake of the hotel bombing in Indonesia.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the Marines would be deployed only as a last resort.

An explosion inside the SM Megamall killed one person and injured 11 others three years ago.

Abalos said his only concern is that people might get scared and stay away from malls and other commercial centers.

"Of course, the people's safety is our priority," he said.

Eastern Police District head Chief Supt. Ronaldo Sacramento said there is no need at this time to deploy Marines in Metro Manila.

But he added it would be up to the people on top to decide on the the issue.

Human rights groups had bitterly protested the deployment of Marines in Metro Manila, saying that the military men are trained for warfare and not for civilian management.

Passport syndicate exposed

By Margaux Ortiz

HOLD on to your passports.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Interpol is on the hunt against other members of a syndicate that tricks victims into handing over their passports which are then sold to human smugglers.

Victims have filed complaints against alleged members of the group identified as Lyceo Martinez, Minerva Timbol Brilliantes alias Linda Dunca and Linda Macapagal and Jose Maria Belzonsi before the NBI Interpol for violation of the passport act.

According to one of the victims, who asked not to be named because of death threats, the syndicate operated in five-star hotels in Metro Manila.

The victim said the suspects asked them to attend a "conference" and promised them a big amount of money in exchange for their passports. In their case, the victim said, the suspects promised them a "percentage" in the ill-gotten Marcos riches.

The passports were supposedly to facilitate the purchase of airline tickets so that the victims could be flown to Europe to receive their "share" of the wealth.

What helped convince them, the victim said, was the purported "conversations" that the suspects had with personalities like "President Macapagal-Arroyo" over the cell phone.

The INQUIRER learned that the passports of the victims were tampered with then sold to other people.

MEN saw the MMDA urinals as a relief but Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza says it was encouraging a bad habit.
PDI FILE PHOTO

Urinals stir row

Atienza says these promote bad habit

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza have locked horns yet again—this time over the construction of urinals along Manila streets.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said the agency stopped constructing urinals and waiting sheds in the city last month after Atienza ordered them to do so.

Nacianceno told the INQUIRER that the Manila mayor had said urinals encouraged people to pee in public areas.

Nacianceno said the rationale behind the construction of urinals was that men had a hard time "holding it in" so they peed on streets, walls and even wheels of vehicles.

"They pee anyway, so we might as well provide them with a better and more proper place to urinate," Nacianceno said.

The MMDA official also stressed that "the mere fact that people use the urinals mean these structures are really needed."

Atienza, for his part, said the pink urinals were not just mere "eyesores."

The mayor said the MMDA did not consult the city government in constructing the urinals.

Atienza also stressed that the urinals contradicted their citywide campaign against urinating in public.

He said he believed that discipline was the only solution to the problem.

"If they really want to pee, then they should use public toilets," Atienza said.

He also cited as an example the MMDA's attempt to construct urinals along España.

He said the urinals were right in front of a ladies' dormitory.

The mayor said it was scandalous for the ladies to see men relieving themselves.

"Besides, I hate the color they used, *masyadong alanganin*," Atienza said.

He added, "I personally think that green is more pleasant to the eye."

The mayor said he also stopped the MMDA from constructing pink waiting sheds in Manila because they did not ask for the city government's permission first.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, on the other hand, said it was not right that the construction of urinals in Manila was stopped.

"We had very good intentions when we conceived of the project," he said.

METROBRIEFS

Abortion 'mom'

HELENA P. Garcia, 75, goes by the nickname "Mommy," but she has been accused of preventing women from becoming mothers themselves. National Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Garcia, a suspected abortionist, in Caloocan Wednesday night. Garcia's assistant, Jennifer B. Jose, of 12th Avenue, East Gracepark, Caloocan, was also arrested. According to Assistant Regional Director Marianito Panganiban, head of the NBI's Special Task Force, "Mommy" had been performing abortions in Caloocan for P7,000. During the raid on Garcia's house, NBI men found a dismembered fetus and medical equipment. Garcia had been operating her alleged abortion clinic for 10 years, the NBI said. *Leila Salaverria*

2 hurt in robbery

ALICIA Rosario, 23, and Rowena Claveria, 21, were shot and wounded during a jeepney robbery in Parañaque City on Wednesday. Pasay policemen said Rosario, 23 of CAA, Las Piñas City, and Rowena Claveria, 21, a secretary of Dora Shipping and Airfreight Co. in Concorde Village, Parañaque City, were on a jeepney bound for Baclaran when a man pulled out a gun and announced a holdup at around 1:15 p.m. Rosario was shot when she resisted the robber who grabbed her handbag. The bullet pierced through Rosario and hit Claveria, who lost her bag containing P70,000 in cash and cellular phone. After the robbery, the suspect got down from the jeepney and boarded a motorcycle driven by an unidentified cohort. *Alcuin Papa*

Death on pushcart

RODOLFO Pascual, 39, watched his fellow scavenger take his last breath, but he did not think of bringing the victim to the hospital. Pascual, 39, a scavenger himself who lives under the Magallanes interchange in Makati City, told the police that his friend Toto, 55, had been suffering from tuberculosis. Pascual told police that he noticed Toto was having a hard time breathing early morning yesterday. Police said Toto died at 8 a.m., on top of his makeshift pushcart. Pascual said bringing his friend to a doctor did not even enter his mind because he and his fellow scavengers did not have the money to pay the bills, police said. *Margaux Ortiz*

It's lights off for 3 thieves

By Tarra Quismundo

BARANGAY officials arrested on Friday three men for stealing more than P200,000 worth of lampposts in Manila.

Officials of Barangay 56, Zone 5 caught Direck Lumagi, 21, of Perla Street and a minor while detaching lampposts along Juan Luna Street, Tondo, at about 4 a.m.

The two face charges of theft, vandalism and destruction of government property.

Western Police District Special Action Group operatives later arrested a certain Tony Lim, owner of Bio Junk Shop at 3001 Jose Abad Santos St., Tondo.

Lim allegedly bought the stolen lampposts.

Lim will be charged with the violation of RA 1612 or the Anti-Fencing Law.

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Abducted Indian trader rescued

By Alcuin Papa

A KIDNAPPED Indian businessman was rescued by the police in Muntinlupa City before dawn yesterday after one of his alleged abductors was shot dead in a shootout.

Prem Ramchandani, 25, was rescued by operatives of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) in a safehouse at 28 Saint Anthony St., JPA Subdivision, Barangay Tunasan, Muntinlupa City at around 1 a.m.

Suspect John Quimora, 31, was killed after engaging the Pacer elements in a shootout.

The police said Ramchandani of Room 403 of Summit Apartment located at 1863 Ma. Orosa St., Malate, Manila, was abducted in Malate last Aug. 8.

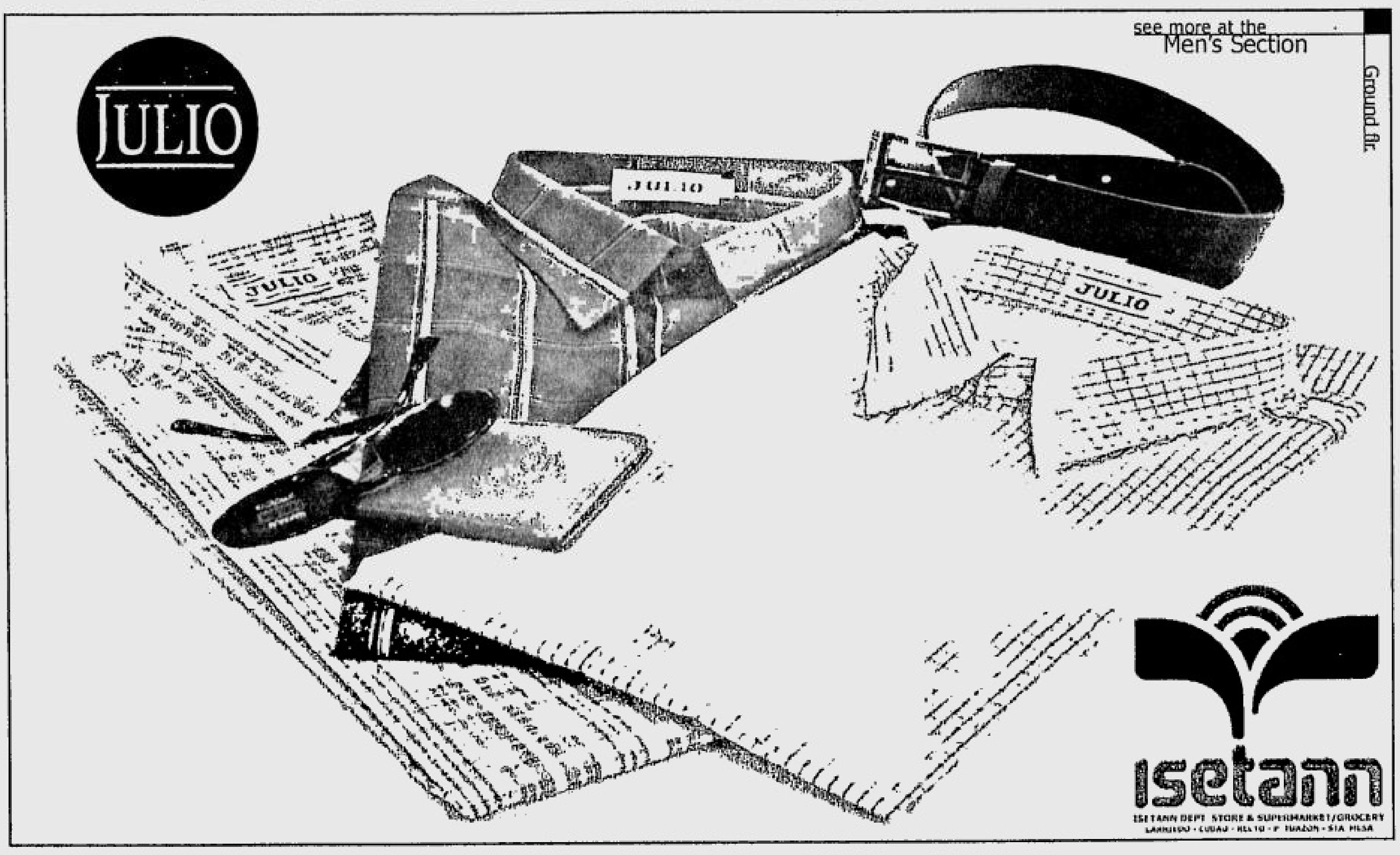
His family received the following day a text message demanding a P500,000 ransom, said Pacer chief Alan Purisima.

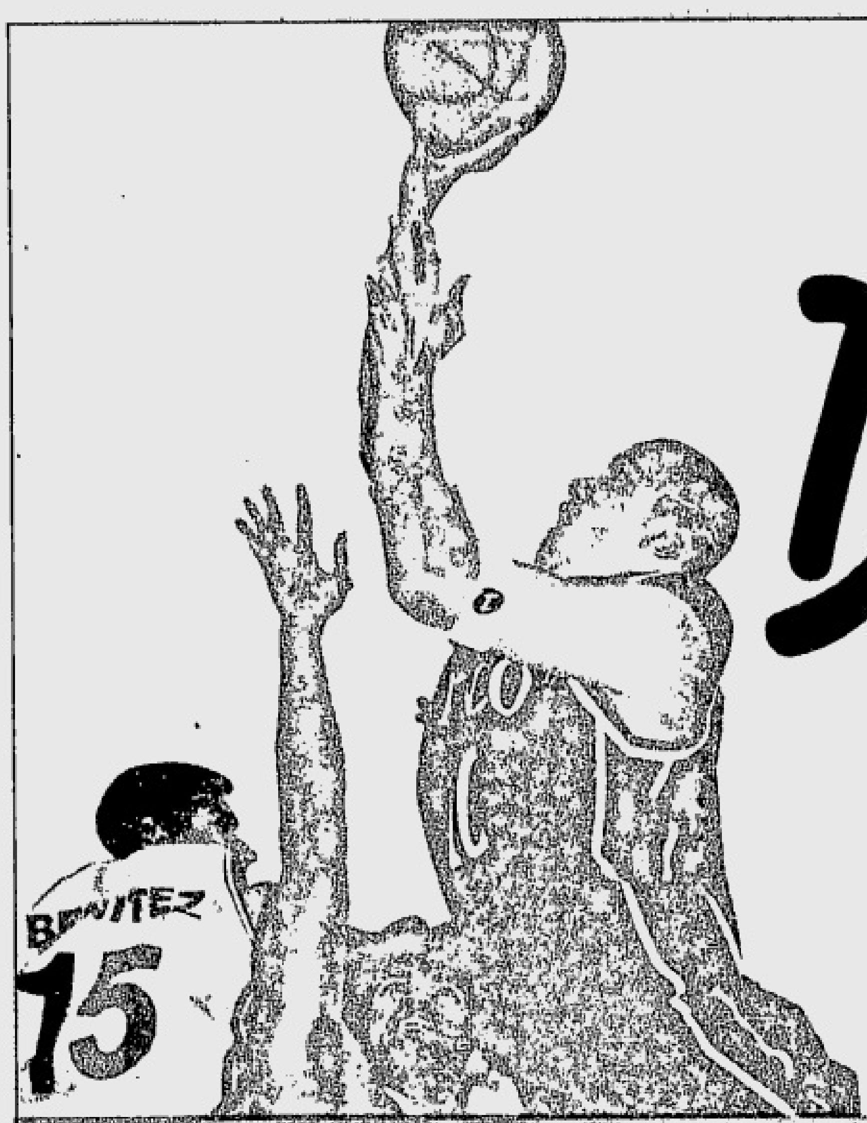
Muntinlupa City chief of police Sr. Supt. Erasto Sanchez told the INQUIRER that they received a tip on where the victim was being kept.

When Pacer and Muntinlupa policemen stormed the house, Quimora tried to fight off the lawmen.

Recovered from the safehouse were a 9mm Ingram machine pistol with ammunition.

Police are still looking for the other kidnappers.





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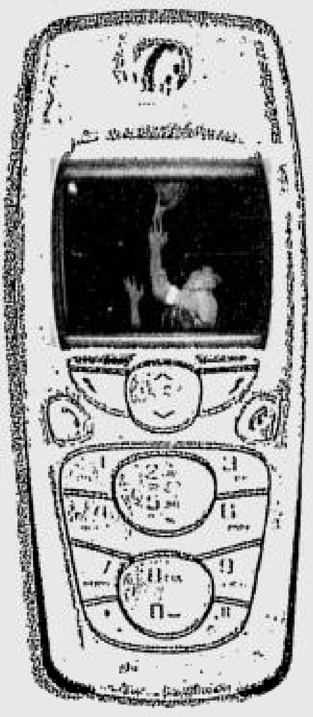

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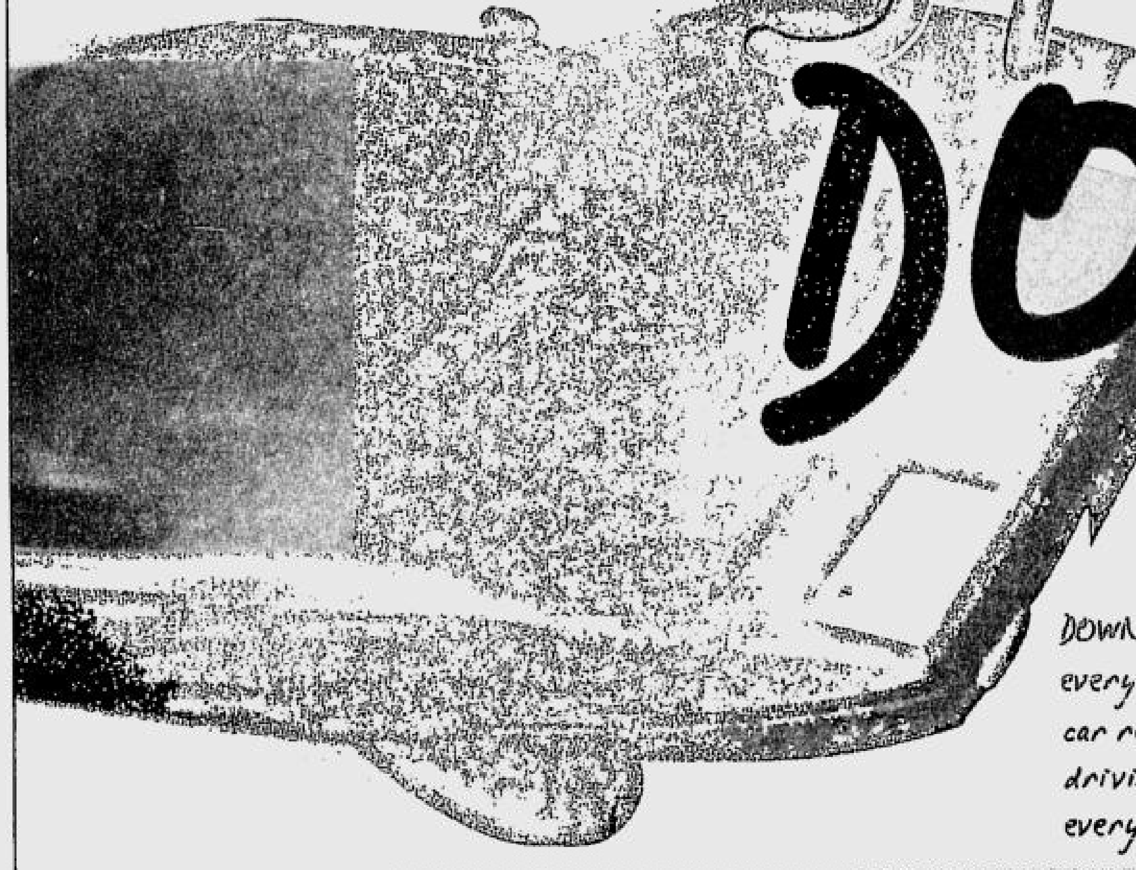

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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Rest could be crucial in PBA semis /A26

■ Pacquiao dream fight almost sure /A29

■ New No. 1 celebrates with win /A30

PBA COMEDY

Mockery to cost TNT heavy fines

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association is expected to impose heavy fine and penalties on officials and players who made a mockery of the the Talk 'N Text-Red Bull Barako game in the Samsung-PBA Invitational championship Wednesday night.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala has summoned Talk 'N Text interim coach Ariel Vanguardia and assistant coach Virgil Villavicencio to his office today to explain the unexpected turn of events late in the match won by the Phone Pals, 88-87.

Talk 'N Text players Asi Taulava, Jojo Manalo, Donbel Belano, Vic Pablo and Bong Ravena were also summoned to shed light on the bizarre incident that angered fans, officials and the commissioner himself.

The win did not prevent Red Bull from advancing to the semifinals in the company of Coca-Cola.

The Phone Pals needed to prevail by eight points to advance over Red Bull and they set a league record for blatant disregard of rules to achieve it to no avail.

With the game down to a few seconds and the Phone Pals ahead, 88-

MOCKERY/A26

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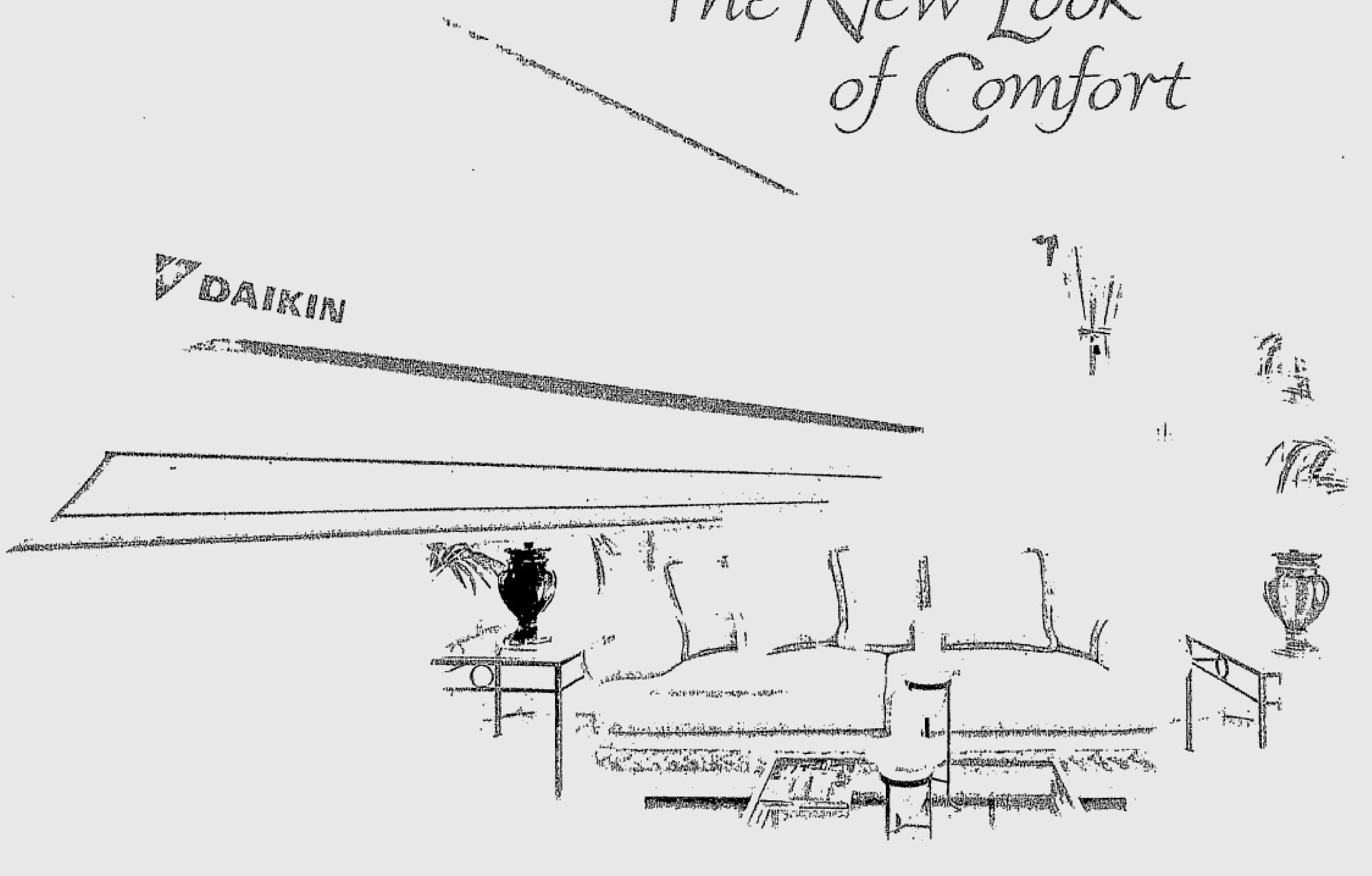

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Eala affirms old pro league policy on Fil-foreigners

By June Navarro

NO DEPARTMENT of Justice confirmation, no play.

Commissioner Noli Eala stressed this old PBA policy yesterday in the wake of the Senate confirmation of a recommendation for the summary deportation of eight Fil-foreign players who had faked their citizenship.

"The PBA solely relies on the papers of the Fil-foreign players which were affirmed by the DOJ. It is a prerequisite for them to be eligible to play. The absence of a confirmation from the justice department bars them from playing," Eala told the INQUIRER.

Former PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino had said the PBA adopted the policy after Sonny Alvarado of Tanduay failed to secure a DOJ confirmation and was summarily deported by the immigration two years ago.

Tanduay was fined P500,000 for every game where it fielded Alvarado, whose citizenship the team was then trying to prove.

Bureau of Immigration chief Andrea Domingo said the other day that the moment the DOJ cancels the confirmation documents of the players, the Fil-fors would be considered as undocumented aliens.

Ordered deported were Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text, Coca-Cola's Rudy Hatfield, Andy Seigle of Purefoods, Red Bull's Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi, Jon Ordonio of Alaska, San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña and Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra were recommended deported by the Senate plenary on Tuesday.

The immigration has formed a committee headed by BI executive director Roy Almoroto to institute deportation proceedings even as Domingo formally requested DOJ chief Simeon Datumanong to cancel the citizenship of the eight Fil-fors.

Rest could be crucial in PBA semis

GAMES TODAY (*Ynares Center*)
5 p.m.—FedEx vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Alaska

WITH foreign threat totally blotted out, four equally calibrated local teams make it an All-Filipino affair as they scramble for championship slots in PBA Invitationals Championships starting today at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

After topping their respective groups in the single-round eliminations, the FedEx Express and the Alaska Aces must beat their foes in a pair of semifinal knockout matches to set up an outright Finals' duel beginning Sunday.

Standing on their way are the Coca-Cola Tigers and the Red Bull Barako Thunder, who squeezed through the proverbial eye of the needle before barging into the semifinal.

The Express face the Tigers at 5 p.m. before the Aces collide with the Thunder in the 7:30 p.m. mainer.

"It's only a single game so it all boils down to the preparation and the conditioning of the teams," said FedEx coach Derrick Pumaren.

Coca-Cola Tigers coach Chot Reyes is similarly wary of their chances with respect to the schedule of the games.

"We only have one day to prepare. I guess we can't do much but try our best to rest our tired bodies and condition ourselves," said Reyes.

The Tigers are coming off a victory against the Cebuana Lhuiller RP Team Wednesday night, leaving them only a single day to recuperate from the wear and tear caused by the stiff resistance of the Nationals.

Poch Juinio, Rudy Hatfield, Rafi Reavis, Jeffrey Cariaso, Rob Wainwright, Johnny Abarrientos and Ato Morano were visibly fagged out after the Cebuana Lhuiller RP Team encounter and will need all the rest they can get before facing the Express.

Coming off from a six-day break, the Express have definitely recuperated after trouncing the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, 91-81, last week.

The Aces are also quite fortunate. They meet the worn-out Thunder after having played their final game in the eliminations almost a week ago.

The Thunder lost to the Phone Pals in a bizarre game the other night but still advanced to the semifinals. *June Navarro*

PHONE PALS
7
PENNISI
Barako
16

TALK 'N Text's Patrick Fran pops a shot off Red Bull's Homer Se and Mick Pennisi in Wednesday night's game won by the Phone Pals. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Patafa thanks GMA for full 3As backing

ATHLETICS president Go Teng Kok yesterday expressed his gratitute for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's full backing of the 2003 Asian Athletics Association Championship the country will host Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal Memorial track-field stadium.

Go said the presidential proclamation declaring 2003 as the Asian Athletics Championship Year will put into place the extensive preparations being undertaken by the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association in hosting the tournament for the third time in three decades.

The proclamation directed the Organizing Committee, in cooperation with the Philippine Sports Commission, "to act as the lead agency in planning, disseminating information and conducting the sporting event."

"I owe President Macapagal-Arroyo a huge debt of gratitude. We can now move without delay and enlist the support of various government agencies to ensure the success of the tournament," Go said.

Go, who flies to Paris Sunday to seek a council seat in the International Association of Athletics Federation, also thanked PSC chair Eric Buhain for endorsing and facilitating the issuance of the presidential edict.

"Chairman Buhain positively pushed for it. He understood our predicament and I am very glad that things are now developing promptly."

Buhain has promised a P16 million financial assistance to the Asian championships.

Already, 35 countries have confirmed their entries in the four-day sportsfest that will be highlighted by the Asian athletics congress on Sept. 22.

Mockery to cost TNT heavy fines

From page A25

87, Belano and Manalo took turns taking three-point shots at Red Bull's basket, eliciting cheers from the crowd and jeers from league officials.

The Talk 'N Text strategy was to give the Thunder a two-point lead and then convert another basket to force the game into overtime where the Phone Pals had hoped to get another chance at winning by at least eight points.

When the ploy failed, the Phone Pals tried another trick, calling timeouts which they didn't have that forced the referees to slap a pair of technical fouls on Talk 'N Text and reward Red Bull with free throws.

But Red Bull was on to the scheme and Homer Se and Willie Miller deliberately missed their charities to set the final score.

EALA: Deliberate attempt to mock rules

"It was an obvious and deliberate attempt to mock the rules of the game. We will impose commensurate penalties for their actions," Eala yesterday told the INQUIRER.

An INQUIRER source said a hefty fine will be slapped on the Phone Pals for their misdeed.

"It was a disservice to the fans. Teams want to win but they ought to remember that they also have a responsibility to the fans," said Eala.

No Red Bull Barako official or player was summoned.

"I see no reason to summon them. Red Bull played within the rules," said Eala.

"With what happened, I'm beginning to feel that teams should be reoriented on the mission of the PBA, especially new officials like Ariel (Vanguardia) and Virgil (Villavicencio)," he added.

Vanguardia took over from Joel Banal, who temporarily left the Phone Pals to coach the Ateneo Eagles in the ongoing UAAP tournament.

Alvarez leads Scoop guests

AIRFREIGHT 2001 president and FedEx team manager Lito Alvarez, professional players association spokesperson Jojo Lastimosa and lawyer Orlando Salatandre will be the guests in today's Scoop sa Kamayan session at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Ave. in Quezon City.

Alvarez will talk about FedEx's course of action following the PBA board of governors' decision to uphold commissioner Noli Eala's earlier verdict requiring Airfreight 2001 to pay Bong Hawkins the remaining two years of his contract amounting to P9.6 million.

Lastimosa and Salatandre will discuss their plans in the light of the Senate's recommendation to deport eight players found to have submitted spurious documents in acquiring their Filipino citizenship.

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 043

Paeng

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.

☐ True /☐ False: Paeng Nepomuceno is still the youngest person ever to have won the bowling World Cup.

2 > 5 Pts.

In what event did Paeng claim a gold medal at the 2002 Busan Asian Games?

☐ Men's Singles
☐ Men's Doubles

3 > 7 Pts.

In 1999 Paeng became the first athlete to receive what highest Philippine civilian award?

☐ Medal of Valor
☐ Legion of Honor
☐ Order of Sikatuna

4 > 10 Pts.

A 7-foot-tall encased photograph of Paeng greets visitors to the International Bowling Hall of Fame located in what city?

☐ London
☐ St. Louis
☐ Berlin

5 > 20 Pts.

How many tournament titles has Paeng won so far in his career?

☐ 88
☐ 116
☐ 254
☐ 303

6 > 25 Pts.

Which of Paeng and Pinky Puyat's children is into bowling and also a lefty like Paeng?

☐ Rafael
☐ Saira
☐ Isabel
☐ Teresita

7 > 30 Pts.

Paeng's paternal grandfather, Don Jose Nepomuceno who is known as the 'Father of Philippine __ "

ANSWERS/ A29

Drought

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

TIGER Woods has won four tournaments this year and he's in a drought?

Ernie Els has won five tournaments this year and he's also in a drought?

They both are because, with their stature, they ought to own a major by now. But no, each has yet to win his first major this year.

Oh, yes, they have won 11 majors between them—8 for Woods, 3 for Els.

But this year, they are zero in majors.

And they are the world's 1-2 in the rankings.

And time seems to be running out on them. Their only chance at ending the drought is at the PGA Championship which, minus snafus, is set to begin today at Oak Hill in Rochester, New York.

Life's funny, if not ironic.

If you talk of a drought, can't you find a more appropriate person to fit that tag other than David Duval?

Duval, once the world's No. 1, was the British Open winner in 2001. From 1997 to 2001, he has won 13 tournaments; in 1999 he replaced Tiger Woods as world No. 1.

Then came the drought. The real drought.

Duval is not only a non-winner this year, he has made only four cuts in 18 events this season. He has missed the cut in all three majors. His best finish is a tie for 28th.

Who can beat that?

John Daly, golf's bad boy, is a better player than Duval. Daly has two majors, the 1991 PGA Championship and the 1995 British Open.

It's not easy winning tournaments in the PGA and the European Tour. The world's best are there chasing, challenging and pressuring Woods and Els.

And yet, Els has won thrice in the European Tour after winning the first two PGA events of the year in January—the Mercedes Championships and Sony Open.

"You know, to win twice in a year on this Tour is pretty nice," said Els. "So I haven't played to the same standard that I set at the start of the year and, you know, we are where we are."

"We" here would include Woods, whose four victories this year all came by knockout if it were boxing. In his last two outings, Woods placed cofourth in the British Open and second in his next event.

You call that drought?

It still is.

Woods is so ahead of the pack that he has become like cycling's Lance Armstrong. Armstrong winning his fifth Tour de France title this year was not news; not winning it would have been headline stuff.

Notice the stories written. Win or lose, Woods takes the spotlight always. He wins a tournament and he is the meat of the story. He loses a tournament and he is still the meat of the story.

At the end of the last British Open, Ben Curtis was but a bit player of the world's most prestigious tournament even though he won it. As usual, the top billing went to Tiger Woods—before, during and after the British Open.

Who won the last Tour event, not counting Davis Love III's victory last week? Nobody remembers. But everybody remembers Tiger Woods placing second there.

Els has won more events this year than Woods, 5-4. But Woods remains No. 1 in the world. That's because outside of victories, Woods has finished consistently in the other tournaments that he failed to win.

People remember everything about Woods.

From good shots to bad shots, Woods is the man. From making an eagle from the bunker to stumbling into a three-putt bogey from 12 feet, Woods is the man. In short, whether Woods makes spectacular shots or not, whether Woods wins or not, his presence alone in a tournament is grist for good copy.

If the schedule doesn't get fouled up, the first round of the PGA Championship—the year's fourth and last major after the Masters, US Open and British Open—should be over by now. If you failed to catch it live at Solar Sports beginning 2 a.m. today, you can catch its replay starting at 3:30 p.m., also today.

The Four Days of Dawn I call it. It'd be worth the wake.

You have Els the bridesmaid, Duval the forgotten hero and Daly the happy fat joke to gawk at with delight. And Woods? Ye, nobody does it any better than Woods. Why, his mistakes even add up to his legend. After winning eight majors in six years, Woods is never in a hurry anymore to win another major.

It's now the major in a hurry to catch him.

Bombers, Dolphins try to halt skid

STANDINGS	W	L
Seniors		
San Beda	6	3
Letran	6	3
Mapua	6	3
JRU	5	4
SSC-R	5	4
PCU	3	6
UPHR	3	6
CSB	2	7
Juniors		
San Beda	9	0
Letran	7	2
CSB	6	3
SSC-R	5	4
Mapua	5	4
PCU	2	7
JRU	1	8
UPHR	1	8

GAMES TODAY (*Makati Coliseum*)
9:30 a.m.—UPHR vs CSB (jrs)
11 a.m.—JRU vs PCU (jrs)
2 p.m.—UPHR vs CSB (srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs PCU (srs)

THREE teams try to keep their hopes alive for a Final Four seat while another squad hopes to arrest its skid today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

Tailender College of St. Benilde meets Perpetual Help-Rizal at 2 p.m. while Philippine Christian takes the floor at 4 p.m. against Jose Rizal.

The Heavy Bombers are highest placed among today's combatants at 5-4 in a tie with defending champion San Sebastian after absorbing back-to-back heartbreakers from the CSB Blazers (2-7) and the UPHR Altas (3-6).

Despite the twin setbacks, the Bombers are only a game behind pacesetters Mapua, Letran and San Beda, which share the lead at 6-3.

The Heavy Bombers hope to get fine performances from skipper Marco Paolo Fajardo, Edward Attunaga, Mark Lindaya and Kenneth Coyukang to stop JRU's two-game slide.

The Dolphins (3-6), who lost their last three assignments, are in the same predicament as the Bombers after getting sub-par performances from Joseph Roque, Ian Garrido, Robert Sanz and Arden Guiyab.

In contrast, the Blazers are riding high on the crest of two consecutive victories after losing their first six games.

In the juniors division, the CSB Greenies take on the UPHR Altalettes at 9:30 a.m. followed by the grudge match between the JRU Light Bombers and the PCU Baby Dolphins at 11 o'clock.

June Navarro

Taiwanese five outplays Shell

CHINESE Taipei downed Shell, 74-66, Wednesday night for its third straight victory in the RP-Taiwan Goodwill Series at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Supported here by Mail&More, the Taiwanese have scrambled past RP-Cebuana Lhuillier, 66-65, and RP-Air21 Youth, 85-84, after absorbing a 78-61 loss to Barangay Ginebra.

The series is being sponsored by Air21 through its chair Bert Lina and held under the auspices of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Chinovela superstar Chen Feng, Yen Hsing Su in real life, ably orchestrated Chinese Taipei's plays aside from scoring eight points.

The 6-foot Cheng, one of nine Busan Asiad veterans in the squad, is the star of the popular TV series My MVP Valentine.

CHEN FENG

Chiu Chi Yi led the Taiwanese with 15 points, including a four-point play that sparked the visitors' breakaway in the third quarter.

Shell was led by balik-import Cedric Webber, who banged in 18 points.

Chinese Taipei is playing Purefoods in Tarlac at presstime.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: 85th PGA Championship; First Round; 3:30 p.m.(r); Second Round; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Solar Sports —Catch the replay of the first round then stay up late for the live airing of the second round of golf's fourth major.

LPGA Evian Masters; 1 p.m.; ESPN—It's winning time as the ladies go all out in the final round from Les Bains, France.

TENNIS: Western and Southern Financial Group Masters; 7 a.m. (r - 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.) and tomorrow at 1 a.m.; Star Sports - The final 16 gets trimmed down to eight in Cincinnati, Ohio.

BASEBALL: MLB - Blue Jays vs Mariners; 10 a.m. (r - 3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN - Toronto takes on Seattle in this AL encounter.

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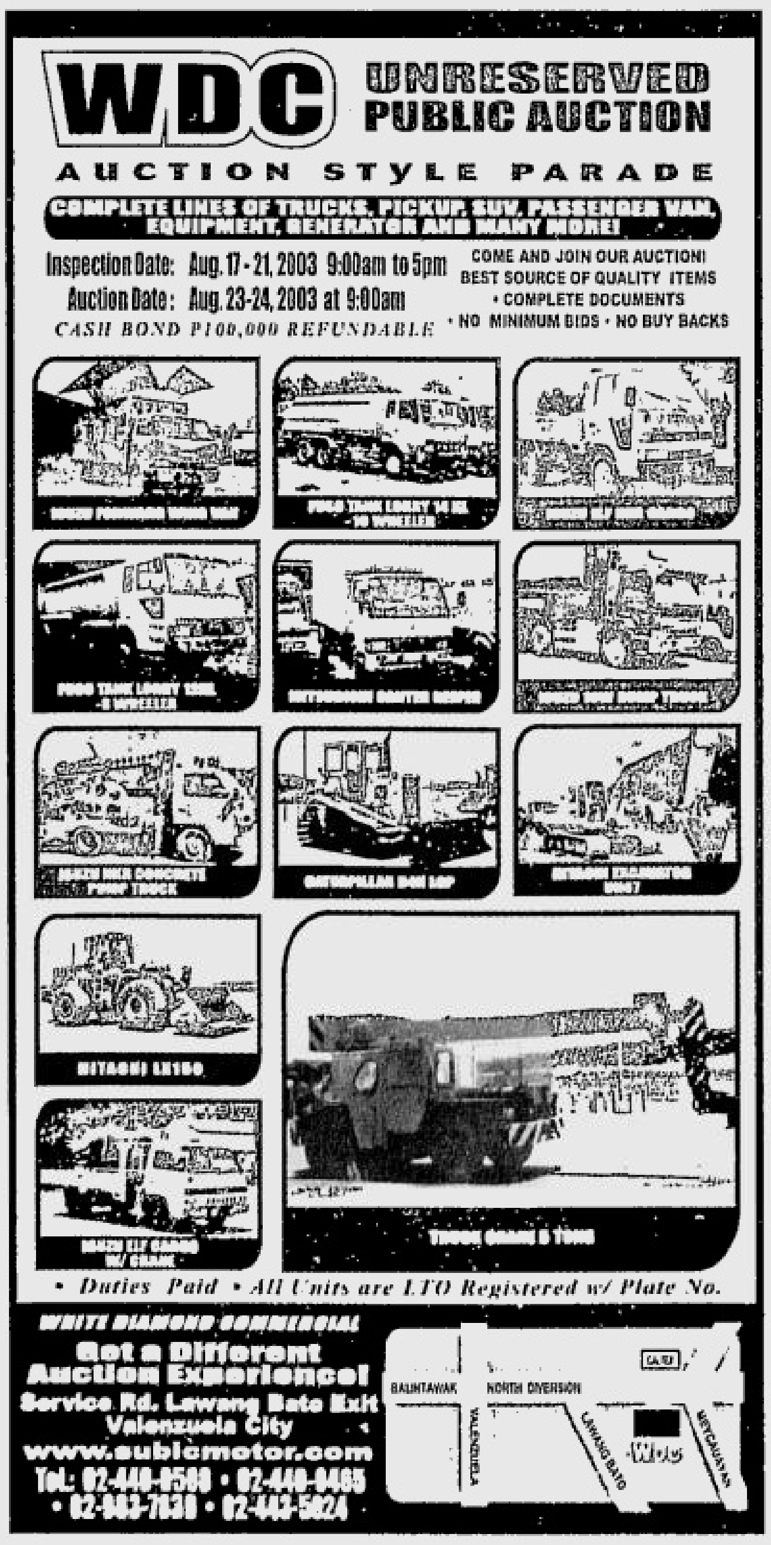
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PLEDGING SESSION

Buhain hopes to hit jackpot

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain is confident today's pledging session for the country's campaign in the Southeast Asian Games would be a big success.

Buhain said the PSC expects the country's actual stint in Vietnam to cost P58 million based on the list of athletes, coaches and officials approved by the SEA Games technical commission.

There are already 381 athletes and 121 officials and coaches approved for the Games slated Dec. 3-15.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo has called on the top companies in the country to pitch in for the national athletes at the Heroes' Hall in Malacañang.

Expected to show up at the lunchtime affair are business leaders and executives, who are counted on to support the fund drive organized by the First Gentleman Foundation, the PSC and the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Buhain also lauded Mr. Arroyo's gesture, which is actually a follow-up of his initiative a month ago to give P10 million for the training of national athletes.

"We are deeply honored by the First Gentleman's gesture of throwing support to the cause of Philippine sports, especially at this time when we really need all the help we could muster from all sectors," said Buhain.

Buhain added: "He (Arroyo) also typifies the First Family's commitment to advance Philippine sports as a vital part in the government's agenda of rebuilding our nation toward the formation of a strong republic."

Arroyo earlier said the funds to be raised will be channeled directly to the athletes, especially the 64 bets who were earlier identified as possible gold-medal winners.

Arroyo has been actively supporting athletes through fund-raising activities, recently extending his help to Filipino chesser Mark Paragua who aims to become the country's fifth Grandmaster.

The pledging session is also expected to help the PSC raise additional funds, now that the money it gets from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. has been slashed by half.

CUBA'S Yordany Borrero sticks out his tongue after lifting 147.5 kg en route to winning the gold medal in the men's 69-kg category, at the XIV Pan American Games Wednesday in the Dominican Republic. Borrero won the gold medal with a total of 317.5 kg in both the snatch and clean and jerk. Venezuelan Amilcar Pernia won the silver medal and Cuban Aristoteles Fuentes the bronze medal. REUTERS

RP softbelles bow out of World Series

THE PHILIPPINE team failed to sustain its blazing start, dropping back-to-back games Wednesday and bowed out of contention in the 2003 Big League Softball World Series in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The RP girls first bowed to European champion Windmill, Netherlands, 2-0, and then took a 1-0 loss from host Kalamazoo.

After blasting its first two rivals Tuesday, the back-to-back setbacks relegated the Pinays to third place in their group with Kalamazoo and Windmill advancing to the semifinals with identical 3-1 win-loss records.

Michigan will face Pool B's No. 2 team 2001 World Series titlist Waldorf, Maryland in the semis while Netherlands battles Pool B No. 1 Latin American ruler Maunabo, Puerto Rico.

The winners then collide for the World Series title.

The Pinays, the Asia-Pacific champions and bannered by eight members of the University of the Philippines team that won the 2002 UAAP title, will still be seeing action in the Friendly Games along with the other non-qualifiers from the two groups.

With their 2-2 record, the Philippines will next face Thursday the other third placer from Pool B, the United States' Southwest region champion San Antonio, Texas.

The Texans also finished at 2-2 with their two wins coming at the expense of defending champion Grand Rapids, Michigan, 5-2, and Canadian titlist Victoria, British Columbia, 5-1.

In the Nationals' win over Charleston, West Virginia last Tuesday, coach Randy Dizer and assistants Kiko Diaz and Ulysses Mejia used four pitchers who combined for a two-hitter in a 2-1 win.

Starting pitcher Dione Macasu of UP scored the Philippines' two runs, the first on a double by Alexis Causapin in the first inning and the second after an error in the third.

UP's Rachel de Guzman and La Salle-Manila's Sam Uichico emerged heroines in the National's 3-0 win against Riverside, California also last Tuesday after contributing two hits in the first two innings.

Macasu and three other pitchers also joined forces in shutting out Riverside on three hits. *Rey Danseco*

Django faces Bata in semis

FILIPINO pool aces Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante won their opening matches Wednesday to arrange a semifinal showdown in the $50,000 (P2.7 million) winner-take-all International Challenge of Champions in Connecticut, USA.

Reyes beat Holland's Nick Van Den Berg, 7-4, while Bustamante downed England's Daryl Peach, 7-3.

Canada's John Horsfall downed Germany's Ralf Souquet, 7-5, and USA's Earl Strickland routed Chinese Taipei's Chang-Shun Yang, 7-2, to forge the other semifinal clash.

Both Reyes and Bustamante are being supported by Puyat Sports through its president Putch Puyat.

The semifinals will start at 4 p.m. Thursday (4 a.m. Friday in Manila) and the final match will follow an hour later.

Adamson girls still unbeaten

Standings: Adamson 4-0, UP 3-1, DLSU 2-2, Ateneo 2-2, FEU 2-3, UST 2-3, UE 0-4.

ADAMSON University banked on the game-long brilliance of Dorothy Torres and Marites Gadian to beat University of the Philippines (UP), 78-74, Wednesday and remain unbeaten in the 66th University Athletic Association of the Philippines women's basketball tournament.

The Lady Falcons, utilizing their homecourt advantage to the hilt, drew 21 points from Torres and 17 from Gadian in booking their fourth straight victory while dealing the Lady Maroons their first setback in four outings.

Torres also hauled down four rebounds and dished out three assists for the Lady Falcons, who are bent on improving their second place finish last season.

Reigning champion De La Salle took its second loss in four games, bowing to Far Eastern, 45-57, while Santo Tomas nailed University of the East further down the standings, 92-59.

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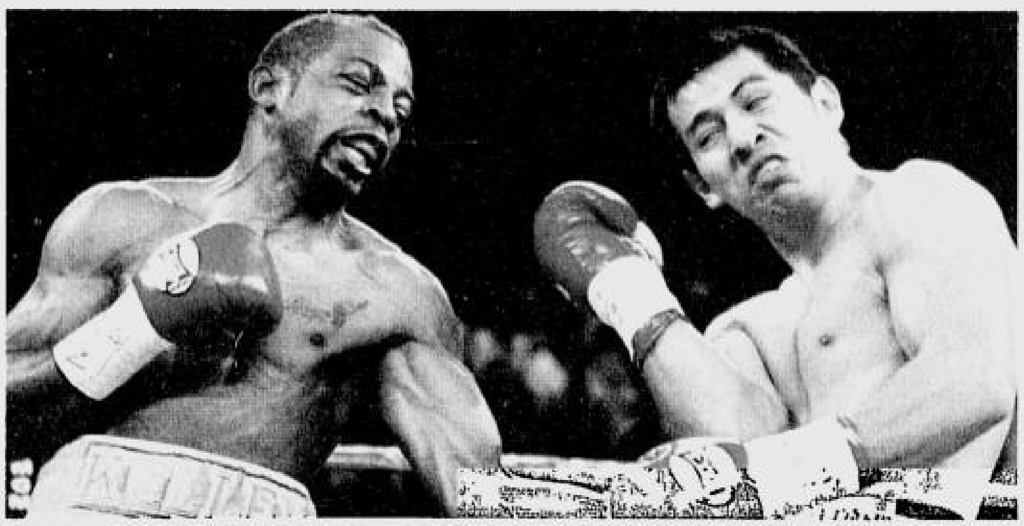

WORLD featherweight champ Marco Antonio Barrera (right) of Mexico gets a left from American Kevin Kelley during their Las Vegas tussle in April. Barrera won by a 4th round TKO. AFP

Egina, Lapua clash for superfly title

TOP contender Alex "Tiger" Egina trades punches with second-ranked Ramie Laput tomorrow for the vacant Philippine superflyweight title at the New Cebu Coliseum.

Egina, parading a 9-1 win-loss record with 1 KO and currently ranked PABA no. 2 and OPBF no. 8 in the bantamweight category, is expected to have his hands full against the veteran Davao-based Laput, who boasts of 23 wins, with 12 KOs, against 3 losses.

"I am ready for the biggest fight of my career. This is my time to shine, and I've prepared long and hard for this. Let the chips fall where they may," said the highly confident Egina in Cebuano in an interview with the INQUIRER.

The Egina-Laput clash is presented by the P&J Promotions, Lecit-E, Bioderm Soap, Casino Ethyl Alcohol, PowerPlus, Omega Pain Killer and Trust Classic Quality Condoms.

The winner is expected to make the first defense against ALA Boy Sherwin Paro.

In the main supporting 10-round bout, Elmer "Sinangag Attack" Gejon (8-5, 4 KOs) of the Wakee Salud Stable trades leathers with SGG warrior Fabio Marfa (15-7-3, 9 KOs).

Gejon of the Flores Stable, and the counter-punching Marfa are expected to wage an exciting fight, with the winner likely to get a chance to vie for the soon-to-be-vacated RP minifly title of Stonewall's Rodel Mayol.

Mayol will go for the OPBF crown on Nov. 24 in Fukuoka, Japan.

Other bouts pit Romeo Buhawi against Eddie Penaso; Greg Mangan versus Donnie Nietes; Teofilo Tunacao against Lito Gonzaga; Gilbert Dela Torre versus Roy Fuentes; Sergio Tuñacao against Noli De la Cruz; Lucemar Abatayo against Octavio Aleonar; Jolito Cajoles vs Keyman Llena; and Jorge Perales vs Henry Fabillar.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Pacquiao dream fight almost sure

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

DESPITE promotional hitches, Manny Pacquiao may yet realize his dream of a megabuck clash with Marco Antonio Barrera, widely acclaimed as the planet's finest featherweight.

Latest info from Las Vegas say IBF superbantam king Manny Pacquiao will most likely fight Barrera on Nov. 15 as planned by the Mexican prizefight sensation's braintrust led by the great Oscar De la Hoya.

Nicknamed "The Baby-faced Assasin," the 29-year-old Barrera, a native of Iztacalco, Mexico and parading a 57-3 win-loss slate with 40 KO victories, has parted ways with his promoters to join De la Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions. The move was an offshoot of his former promoters' failure to arrange a much-anticipated third meeting with fellow Mexican Erik Morales.

With Morales inevitably jumping into the bigger junior lightweight ranks, Barrera is now training his sights on Pacquiao, who last month made waves in the US prizefight market with a scintillating fourth defense of his 122-lb title.

In a report the other day at boxing website Fightnews.com, feature writer Ralph Gonzalez revealed that a mega-fight between Barrera and Pacquiao "is close to being a done deal for Nov. 15." The proposed venue is Las Vegas.

All parties involved have reportedly given their blessing and were close to signing the dotted lines. These include cable network HBO, Golden Boy Promotions, Murad Muhammad and representatives of both fighters.

Earlier, Pacquiao expressed his earnest interest in facing Barrera for what he termed as a "meaningful and important fight."

Right after knocking out challenger Emmanuel Lucero, Pacquiao called out the name of Barrera and former superbantam champ Paulie Ayala as his desired next opponents.

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Race 4—1. Nureyev Heiress 2. Hong Kong Girl 3. Sand Splash 4. Cue Artist

Race 5—1. Arriba Diva/Risen Free 2. Yonder Girl 3. Super Magic 4. Blitzkrieg

Race 6—1. Mica's Magic 2. Bumper to Bumper 3. L'Islet Sur Mer

Race 7—1. May's Magic 2. Detonator 3. Diamond Buck 4. Dynamite Jack 5. Manila Mauler

Race 8—1. Speed Charm 2. Premiere Stock 3. Habagat 4. Everybodyhappy

Race 9—1. Well Noted 2. Masagana 3. Tervalac 4. Arigato 5. Arbiter/Fancy Free 6. Real Gem

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS

From page A26

1. True (at age 19 when he won his first World Cup in 1976)
2. Men's Doubles (with RJ Bautista)
3. Legion of Honor
4. St. Louis (Missouri)
5. 116
6. Isabel
7. 'Movies'

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KIM Clijsters follows through on a shot during her second round win over Francesca Schiavone of Italy. REUTERS

New No. 1 celebrates with win

TORONTO—Kim Clijsters easily lived up to her new ranking as the world's top player, taking just 48 minutes to advance to the third round of the Rogers AT&T Cup.

The player from Belgium, who replaced Serena Williams at the top on Monday, routed Francesca Schiavone of Italy 6-1, 6-2 on Wednesday night. Williams, who withdrew before the start of the tournament, had been No. 1 for 57 weeks.

Clijsters is the first woman to reach No. 1 without having won a Grand Slam title since the WTA Tour introduced its rankings in 1975, but has a tour-leading six victories this season and has reached the semifinals of all 14 appearances.

"I definitely felt great out there," Clijsters said. "She probably made more mistakes than the other two matches I've played (against her) in the last few weeks.

"But I played very aggressive and never gave her a chance to play her game."

In the afternoon, second-seeded Justine Henin-Hardenne, also of Belgium, and defending champion Amelie Mauresmo of France won second-round matches.

Other seeded players advancing to the third round of the US$1.3-million event were No. 4 Daniela Hantuchova, No. 5 Anastasia Myskina, No. 9 Elena Dementieva, No. 10 Vera Zvonareva, No. 12 Elena Bovina, No. 14 Nadia Petrova and No. 15 Nathalie Dechy.

Henin-Hardenne had an easy time with Marion Bartoli, winning 6-3, 6-3. Bartoli was ahead 3-2 in the second set, but Henin-Hardenne said a turning point came when she won a long, hard-fought rally to make it 30-30.

Mauresmo overcame several errors in the first set to beat Russian Elena Likhovsteva 3-6, 6-1, 6-2. *AP*

Federer leads exodus of seeds

CINCINNATI—Wimbledon champion Roger Federer and French Open winner Juan Carlos Ferrero joined the remarkable exodus of seeds in the second round of the Cincinnati Masters Series on Wednesday.

Federer, the Swiss third seed, lost, 7-6, 7-6, to Argentine David Nalbandian, whose compatriot Gaston Gaudio had earlier stunned second seed Ferrero, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4.

The defeats, under a fierce sun as temperatures in Ohio soared, ended Federer and Ferrero's hopes of overhauling Andre Agassi as world number one by the end of the $2.45-million event.

The surprise results also left only four seeds still alive, led by number six Guillermo Coria of Argentina and number seven Andy Roddick, a 6-1 6-4 victor over Croatian Ivan Ljubicic.

Roddick's win set up a mouth-watering third-round clash with James Blake after his fellow American's 6-1 6-4 triumph over 11th-seeded Dutchman Sjeng Schalken.

Wednesday's results also ensured the last 16 is comprised of five Argentines and, after an evening session win for Mardy Fish over Belgian Xavier Malisse, five Americans.

World number two Federer had saved seven match points in his epic first-round win over Scott Draper but Nalbandian made sure he did not become the victim of another great escape.

He took the first set tiebreak 7-4 and then surged into a 5-2 lead in the second set.

Federer found his last reserves of energy to break back and force another tiebreak but Nalbandian immediately slammed the door shut again.

The 2002 Wimbledon runner-up took a 3-0 lead in the tiebreak and clinched a place in the third round on his second match point. *Reuters*

Love can conquer all at PGA tilt

ROCHESTER—With four wins in seven months, world number three Davis Love III comes to the 85th PGA Championship in strong position to capture his second major in an 18-year career.

At 39, Love captured last week's International title and vaulted to the top of the PGA Tour money list—a position Tiger Woods has made his private domain in six of the last seven years.

Starting the year as the ninth-ranked player in the world, Love has made steady progress, starting with a win at the AT&T Pebble Beach in February.

LOVE REUTERS

He also captured the prestigious Players Championship in March, followed up with the MCI Heritage trophy two weeks later and then claimed last week's International.

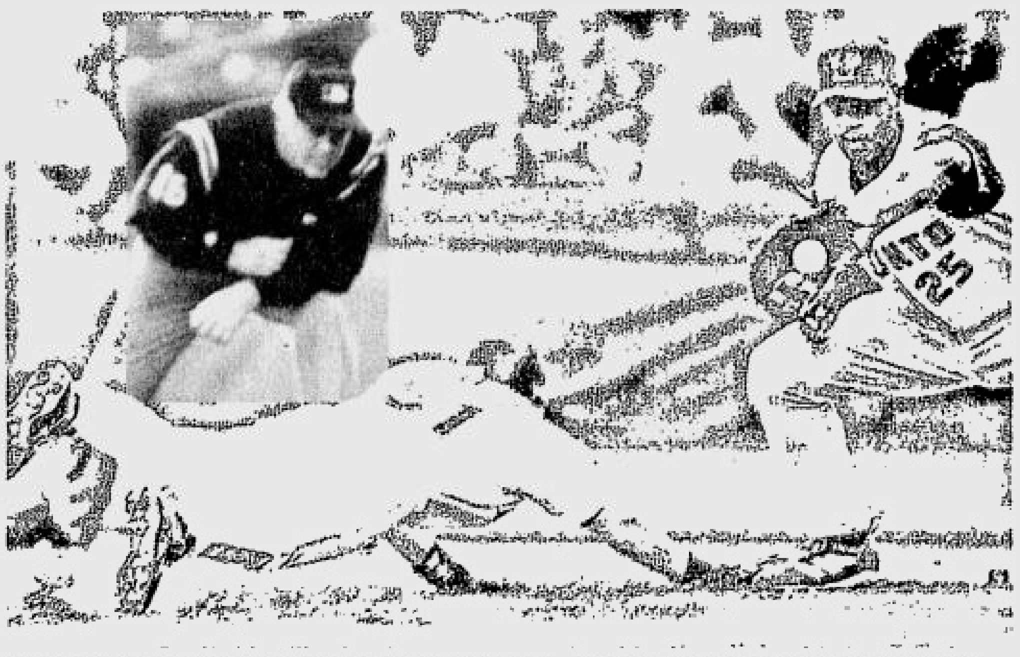
"Obviously in this day and age, it's great to win golf tournaments, any golf tournament, much less a Players or Pebble Beach or any of the four that I've won that are a little bit separated from the rest," Love said.

"It's great to be able to win in an era where so many players, and when so many great players, are on top of their game."

Love's success has come with tragedy. His brother-in law was found to have embezzled more than $1 million from Love and eventually committed suicide in May.

Last week, after his win at The International, Love denounced rumors about his wife, which he said had been on his mind during the entire week.

"Rumors are rumors and that's why I was a little upset with my, whatever you want to call it, friends and family and fans that believed some of the stuff that was being said," Love said. *Reuters*



SAFE: Ichiro Suzuki of the Seattle Mariners dives back to first base on a pick-off attempt by the Toronto Blue Jays at Safeco Field in Seattle, Washington. Seattle won, 13-6. AFP

Power-hitting Piazza returns with a bang

NEW YORK—Catcher Mike Piazza returned to New York's line-up with a bang, homering and singling twice to plate five runs to lead the Mets to a 9-2 rout of the San Francisco Giants in the National League Wednesday.

Piazza took loser Jerome Williams (5-3) deep in the third, his eighth homer of an injury-plagued season.

The 10 times All-Star has been sidelined since mid-May with a strained right groin. He told reporters he could hardly sleep in anticipation of his return.

Steve Trachsel (11-7) worked 7 2/3 innings for the win. He scattered eight hits while striking out four.

In Atlanta, the Braves were quick to make amends for Tuesday's 14-4 loss to San Diego, scoring twice in the opening inning on the way to a 7-1 trouncing of the Padres.

The Padres, who pounded out a club record 24 hits Tuesday, picked up only four this time. Atlanta collected 14, 11 off loser Kevin Jarvis (4-5).

Gary Sheffield had two of the 14 hits, extending his streak to 17 games. He also drove in a game-high three runs.

Mike Hampton (10-5) notched the victory, striking out five while walking two over eight innings.

In Chicago, Moises Alou belted a three-run homer against his former team as the Cubs rallied to defeat the first-place Houston Astros 6-4.

Alou's fifth-inning blast enabled the Cubs to close within 1 1/2 games of the Astros in the NL Central.

Rookie starter Jeriome Robertson (11-6) took the loss, the win going to Cubs reliever Mark Guthrie (1-3), who retired two batters to set the stage for Alou's game-winner.

In Philadelphia, Jim Thome's three-run, first-inning shot set the Phillies up for an 11-4 triumph over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Thome took loser Ben Sheets (10-10) deep before Sheets had retired a batter. He added a second homer in the eighth off reliever Mike DeJean.

Bobby Abreu plated three more Philadelphia runs with a single and double. Kevin Millwood (12-8) worked seven innings for the victory, one of his few mistakes Keith Ginter's three-run homer.

In Pittsburgh, Craig Wilson homered twice and Reggie Sanders added another as the Pirates struck late to edge the St. Louis Cardinals 6-5.

But it was pinch-hitter Randall Simon's ninth-inning single off closer Pedro Borbon (0-1) that proved the game-winner. *Reuters*

SPORTSWATCH

Cleak, Rodriguez rule kartfest

ROSARIO, Batangas—Daniel Cleak and Paco Rodriguez of Team Cebu-Demvels prevailed over rivals with high-powered engines in the sixth leg of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit here. Cleak, a 15-year-old St. Benedictine International high school junior, shone in the KT Light class—a race usually dominated by arch rivals Maico Angeles of Primus Racedevils and Ivan Carapiet of Edgesport. He pulled out of the tight four-way battle against Ezra Pages of Birel-A3 Motorsports, Angeles and pacesetter Blake Go of Team Cebu-Demvels in the final two laps en route to the big upset in this event sanctioned by the governing Automobile Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Nokia, Denso and Eastway Racing. Rodriguez, on the other hand, stole the limelight from perennial winner Buffy Laurel of Birel-A3 Motorsports and Kevin Katzer, clocking 19:03.209 in the 10-lap Cadet 85 division for kids. Matthew Edmunds of Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile also ruled the KT Heavy division over Greg Garcia and Rallycross veteran lawyer Banny Vargas.

National climbing meet on TV

SAN MIG Light's 9th National Sport Climbing Competition Luzon Leg will be aired over Studio 23 at 7 p.m. tomorrow on Game Plan. Held at the Power Up Center for Climbing and Fitness in Quezon City, the event was presented by San Mig Light and sanctioned by the Sport Climbing Association of the Philippines. It was also sponsored by Mojo sandals, Astro Holds, Olympic Village and Power Up.

Go for Gold visits Parañaque

TAGBILARAN City and Maasin, Leyte boxers mix it up in the Go for Gold Amateur Series which visits Parañaque today. Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines head Manny Lopez said seven bouts, spiced up by five special fights, will be held at the San Agustin Gym in Barangay Moonwalk starting at 8 p.m. "This will be the start of provincial team competitions and the resumption of the grassroots development program of Abap," Lopez said. The card, co-hosted by the Tambunting Pag-asa ng Kabataan Foundation Inc., Parañaque Auto Sales and Councilor Gustavo Tambunting, will have Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez as special guest. The event is sponsored by Revlon, Family Rubbing Alcohol, Waterfront Hotel/Casinos, Accel, WG&A Superferry and Pacific Heights.

Laurente-Montilla fight gets support

THE ORIENTAL Pacific Boxing Federation lightweight championship match between reigning titlist Dennis Laurente and Philippine champion Fernando Montilla will be held at the Casino Filipino Parañaque Theater on Wednesday. The Inner Wheel Club of Parañaque Sucat headed by Liza Elorde under District 381 and the Rotary Club of Parañaque Sucat headed by Armand Jardeleza of District 3830 promised their support to the fight card dubbed "Boxing Kontra Droga." Elorde and Jardeleza under their District Chair Vicky Magadia and District Governor Jun Cortez, respectively, appealed to the youth to get involved in sports rather than involve themselves in illegal drugs. First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on illegal drugs, and Undersecretary Anselmo Avenido Jr. of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency will be at ringside to receive the manifesto of support that will be given by the clubs. Three 10-rounders, two 6-rounders and three 4-rounders will complete the card, being presented in coordination with Johnny Elorde Management International, which will start at 6 p.m. Tickets at P1,500, P500 and P200 are available at the Elorde Sports Center and all Casino Filipino branches. For particulars, call 820-9543 and 826-4463.

Pro boxing goes to Angeles City

THE PHILIPPINE Pro-Boxing League goes on the road tomorrow at the newly renovated Casino Filipino in Angeles City, Pampanga. The boxing card will feature the top eight flyweights of the PPBL who have advanced to the quarterfinals after surviving a grueling elimination series held at the Mandaluyong Gym recently. The boxers will be vying for cash prizes and a possible shot at the crown in the first PPBL Invitational Pro-Boxing championships. Slated to ignite the explosive quadruple bill will be RP flyweight champion Eugene Gonzales vs. Jun Eballe, Jimboy Rodriguez vs. Danilo Peña, Philip Parcon vs. Gerald Ubatay, and Alfred Nagal vs. Elmer Muyco. PPBL bouts are aired every Thursday, 8-9 p.m. at IBC-13 and is a production of I-Sports Action TV with Solar Sports Entertainment.

La Salle, Alumnae gain finals

THE DE La Salle University women's football squad and Alumnae FC won their respective semifinal matches at the Nomads Sports Club to book their final duel for the "Samsung Ladies Open" football cup. Alumnae creamed University of the Philippines, 5-1, and showed why the DLSU squad won't have a kick-in-the-grass match when they meet in the finals on Sunday. When Alumnae FC is complete, they're a hard bunch to lick. Far from the mediocre club that bowed to DLSU, 8-0, a few weeks back, Alumnae's ex-Nationals cruised against a 'pooped' UP squad. De La Salle, in the second semifinal match of the evening, barely scraped past Far Eastern University. With Coach Joe Loren's FEU leading 1-0 in the 76th minute, La Salle midfielder Sugar Perez slammed a 30-yarder that slipped through the hands of the FEU keeper and rolled into the back of the net to even things up at 1-1. And just seven minutes later, La Salle star striker Inna Alejandro's fine finishing from a through-pass by midfielder Queenie Abelardo sent the La Sallians in a frenzy with a 2-1 lead that would hold till the very end. Unlike the UP team before them, the La Salle women's football squad did not panic and thus booked themselves a slot in Sunday's championship match with Alumnae.

Yap guns for jr chess crown again

NATIONAL kiddies champion Kim Steven Yap will again gun for the juniors crown when the Central/Eastern Visayas Leg of the 2003 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship reels off tomorrow at the Sacred Heart School for Boys, Cebu City. Yap, who bested a strong field that includes last year's runner-up Vic Neill Villanueva and third placer Karl Victor Ochoa, will banner participants from Cebu City, Bohol, Dumaguete City and other nearby provinces in the Central and Eastern Visayas regions. Also tagged as a title contender is Rex Cabuncal of University of Cebu, last year's fifth placer in Cebu, as the two-day, seven-round event sponsored by McDonald's and Super Ferry gets underway with a brief but meaningful opening ceremony at 9 a.m. The tournament ends on Sunday. Meanwhile, Jenny Palomo of University of San Jose-Recoletos and Mark Cuyag, last year's 7th placer, will lead the participants in the kiddies division. Fr. Julian Hernando, SJ, Athletic Director of Sacred Heart School, has been invited as special guest and keynote speaker. The top two winners in both the Kiddies and Juniors division will advance to the National Finals slated Sept. 26-28 at the SSS Bldg., East Ave., Quezon City.

Reality combat tourney Sept. 20

THE BOUT between Richie Lazaro, the co-founder of Pasukang Labanan, and Fritz Rodriguez, a Jiu-Jitsu grappling champion, will be the highlight of the 3rd Universal Reality Combat Championship, which will be held on Sept. 20, at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio. Lazaro is an expert in Machado, Sari-an, Muay Thai and AAK, while Rodriguez is the first Filipino to compete in the Mundials World Championship in Brazil. Lazaro and Rodriguez are both undefeated in Mixed Martial Arts Competitions. "This fight will probably go to the ground because both fighters are really good," said Alvin Aguilar, URCC III organizer.

50 fights slated at Pasay cockpit

A SPECIAL 3-cock derby with more than 50 fights scheduled will be held tonight at the fully air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Entries (1.8 kg to 2.4 kg) will be accepted until 2 p.m. Participants may contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750 for details. At stake in this event being hosted by partners Bert Arizobal and Gerry Maningas is a cash prize of P150,000. Entry fee is P5,500. Meanwhile, pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano announced that the annual "Richard L. Bates 7-Stag National Derby" will be held at the Pasay Cockpit on Aug. 28 and 30 with well-known breeder Richard Bates as host. De la Rosa will host a 5-stag derby on Sept. 5. Screening of stags is ongoing.

All set for BIMP meet in Palawan

IT'S ALL systems go for the 3rd BIMP-EAGA (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asean Growth Area) Games which had been dormant for six years, Project Director Leon Montemayor declared yesterday.

Montemayor made the announcement after officials, led by Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, vowed a trouble-free, week-long stay for at least 500 foreign participants.

Seventeen participating areas from four-member countries vie for honors in five events—athletics, swimming (men and women), men's football, men's sepak takraw and women's volleyball.

Meanwhile, top sports medicine experts led by sports psychology guru Dr. Danish Zaheer, secretary general of the Asian Federation of Sports Medicines, will conduct a sports conference that forms part of the Aug. 23-25 event in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

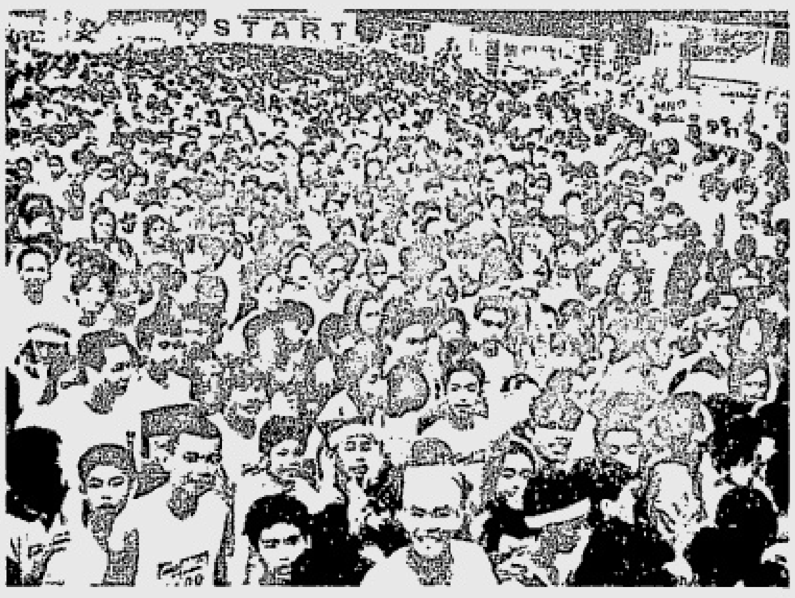
Dr. Zaheer, also head of the Sports Medicine and Research Center-Department of Youth and Sports-Brunei, delves on the topic "Overcoming the challenge among athletes for better performance in sports."

He will arrive together with the 50-man Brunei delegation which sees action in the five-event, three-day meet.

Interaction and sporting exchange highlight the revival of the Games.

Those who will also be on hand to give their views and insights are Lancelot J. Irving of Northern Territory Australia, event coordinator Arafura Games (1997) and current director of the Mindanao Institute of Sports in Tubod, Lanao del Norte; Zaithon Orthman, resident sports psychologist of National Sports Council of Malaysia and Dr. Henky Rogi, professor on Manado State University Indonesia.

Dr. Raul Canlas, medical director of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicines, delivers his views on trends and breakthroughs in sports medicine for athletes in tropical climate.



RECORD FIELD: More than 9,200 runners, the biggest ever in the history of the National Milo Marathon, answered the starting gun at the Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex last Sunday in Cagayan de Oro City. Juniel Languiido and Eileen Tolentino emerged champions in the 20K qualifying race.

Olongapo race slated Sunday

AFTER back-to-back regional elimination races in Davao City and Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao, the 27th National Milo Marathon goes back to Luzon with this Sunday's qualifying race in Olongapo in Zambales.

Defending champions Romeo Marquez and Hazel Madamba will lead an expected huge field of runners from the host province and the neighboring provinces of Bataan, Pampanga and Tarlac seeking to make it to the national finals next month in Manila.

Olongapo City, however, will be hard-pressed to duplicate, much more exceed the over 9,200 runners who showed up in Cagayan de Oro last Sunday.

More than 90 percent of the Cagayan de Oro turnout were high school and college students from 20 schools in the region as the regional Department of Education office threw its support behind the annual marathon event held in partnership this year with Cebu Pacific, Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas, Powerbar, MyGlobe and the Department of Tourism.

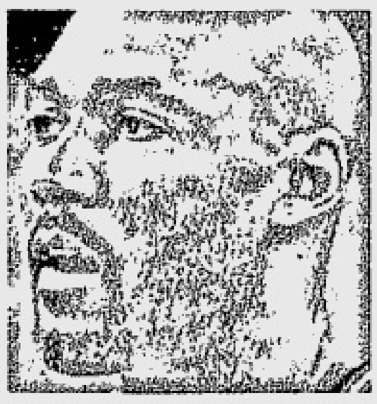
"That record turnout underscored the great strides we have made in encouraging the youth to go into sports," said Pat Goc-Ong, Milo sports executive.

Olongapo City had the highest number of runners at 6,500 in a regional elimination race outside Metro Manila last year and local race organizer Councilor Rolen Paulino promised to come up with an impressive field on Sunday.

The top three male and female 20K finishers in the Olongapo leg will join qualifiers from the earlier regional elimination races in Naga, Tuguegarao, Roxas, Tacloban, Lipa, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

The Metro Manila regionals was reset to Aug. 31 due to the aborted coup attempt in Makati.

DUNCAN



MALONE

Spotlight on US five in Olympic qualifier

THE GAMES of the star-studded, NBA-powered USA basketball squad in the FIBA Americas Olympic qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico will be telecast by Solar Sports from Aug 21 to Sept. 1.

The games will be aired on Channel 29 (Skycable/Homecable) and on IBC-13.

Back-to-back NBA Most Valuable Player Tim Duncan of the San Antonio Spurs and two-time Olympic gold medalist and 18-year NBA star Karl Malone of the Los Angeles Lakers stand at the vanguard of the heavily favored Team USA.

The other members of the team, coached by hall of famer Larry Brown, include Jason Kidd, Ray Allen, Allen Iverson, Jermaine O'Neal, Tracy McGrady, Vince Carter, Mike Bibby, Elton Brand, Richard Jefferson and rookie Nick Collison.

Solar's telecast actually begins tomorrow, with Team USA's exhibition game against Puerto Rico "live" at 7:30 a.m., with a replay at 8 p.m.

Solar will also air Team USA's four elimination round games and 33 games overall of the FIBA qualifying tournament, where 10 teams are vying for the top three slots and an automatic berth to the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

Second-round games fire off on Aug. 26 while the semifinals begin on Aug. 31. The medal games will be played on Sept. 1.

NBA players also lead Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in the tournament.

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Odds even as Taguig plays Pampanga five

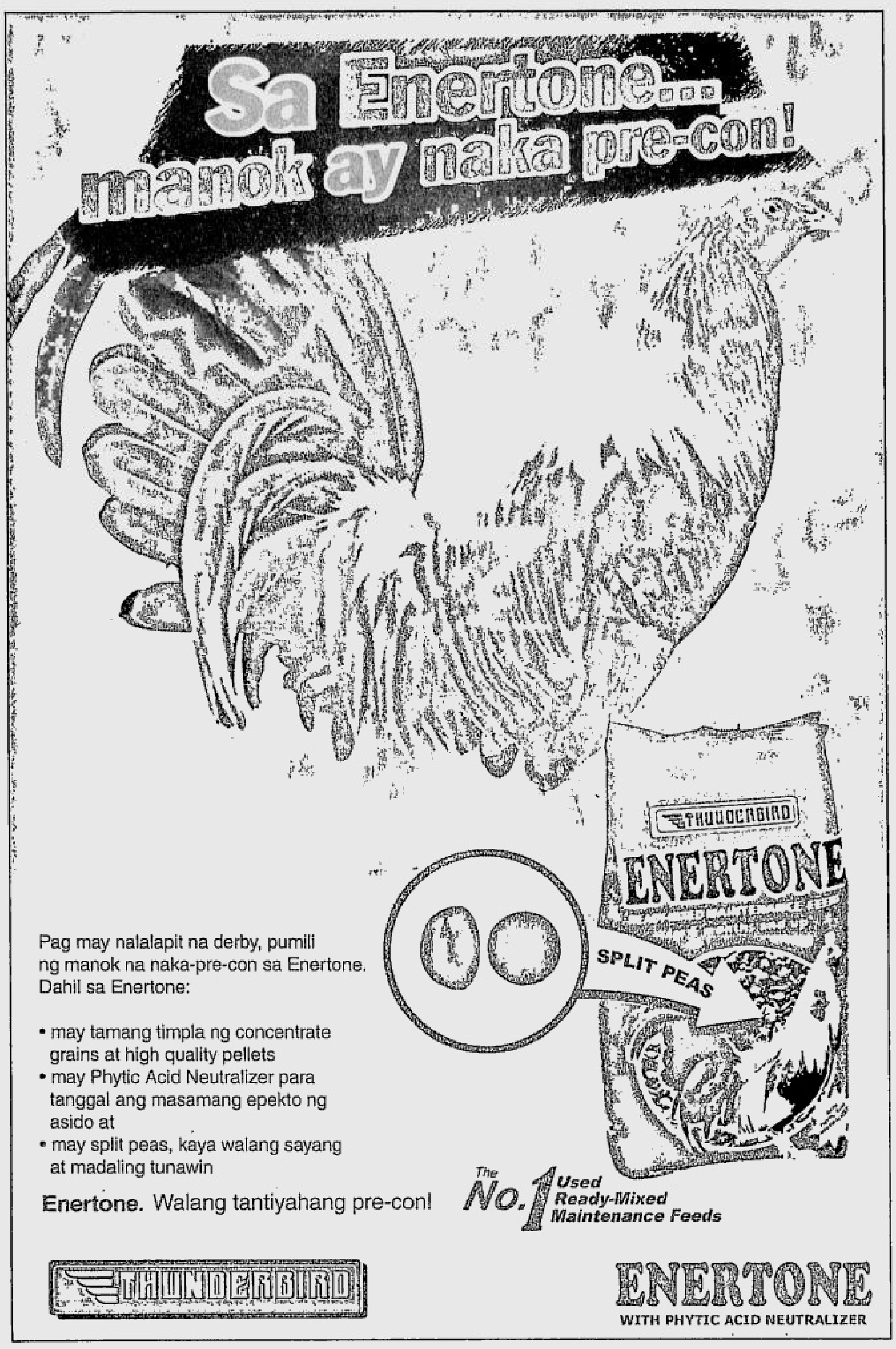
GAMES SUNDAY (*Cebu Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Pampanga vs Taguig
5 p.m.—M.Lhuillier-Cebu vs Compak-Ozamiz

CEBU CITY—With its players healthy and jelling well, Forward Taguig is hopeful of beating the Pampanga Bulls in their best-of-three semifinal series in the 2003 NBL national championship which fires off on Sunday at the new Cebu Coliseum here.

"This is going to be an exciting series," said Taguig coach Danny Gavierres, noting that his team and Pampanga ended with identical 6-6 cards and split their two eliminations matches.

Forward Taguig survived a series of injuries to make the semifinals of the tournament sponsored by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, PCSO, Panasonic, Burlington, Cebu Ferries, SuperCat, Gatorade, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, BJ Star Logistics, The Freeman, Sinners and Saints, Jaguar KTV and Molten Basketballs and telecast over IBC 13 with replays over Destiny Cable's Prime Channel 31.

The other best-of-three semifinal series pits M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala of Cebu and Compak Shineway of Ozamiz City.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Court suspends BSP chief, 4 execs

By Philip C. Tubeza, Elena R. Torrijos and Clarissa S. Batino

THE COURT of Appeals has ordered Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura and four other central bank officials to be suspended for a year over the closure of Urban Bank in 2000.

However, the decision by the appellate court would not take immediate effect as the officials planned to seek a reconsideration.

"Of course we will appeal," BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes, one of the officers ordered to be suspended, said. "One option is to request a reconsideration from the court or go to the Supreme Court. We have to talk to our lawyers."

In a 19-page decision, the CA's Fifth Division found Buenaventura guilty of "gross neglect of duty" for ordering the closure of Urban Bank and its subsidiaries Urbancorp Development Bank and the Urbancorp Investments Inc.

The CA also found his deputies Alberto V. Reyes, Ma. Dolores V. Yuvienco, Candon B. Guerrero and Tomas S. Aure Jr. guilty of the same offense and they were also ordered suspended for a year without pay.

Buenaventura, whose term as governor officially ends in July 2005, is in the United States on a business trip and could not be reached for comment.

Bankers deplored the CA decision as this would further cause uncertainty in the Philippine business environment.

"What we need at this point is certainty, stability," Bank of the Philippines president and chief executive Xavier Loinaz said, pointing out that the CA decision would simply cause "more uncertainty, more anxiety."

Loinaz said that it was vital to reinforce and build institutions such as the BSP and support the regulator and not tear them down.

The CA reversed an earlier ruling by the Office of the Ombudsman that cleared Buenaventura of any liability. The medium-sized financial institution and two subsidiaries were closed in April 2000 after a series of massive withdrawals.

The court said the BSP ordered the permanent closure of the three companies and placed them under receivership just a day after Urban Bank informed monetary authorities it had declared a temporary closure after suffering liquidity problems.

The BSP has offered an emergency loan of P800 million to Urban Bank at the height of its liquidity problems. But the bank's management turned down the offer. At the time, Urban Bank was in merger talks with Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Urban Bank has since been bought by Export and Industry Bank Inc . *With Inquirer wire reports*

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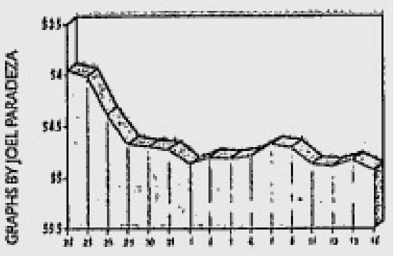

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks end slightly up

STOCKS closed slightly higher yesterday helped by bargain-hunting on select blue chips led by telecom leader PLDT, but analysts said the market may correct soon as momentum slows.

The main index ended higher for the sixth straight day, up 1.8 points at 1,264.3 points.

The market was up 24 percent so far this year.

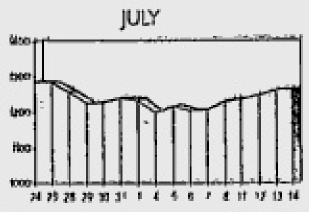
Value turnover rose slightly to P480 million from Wednesday's P312.5 million.

In the broader market, however, decliners beat gainers 42 to 26 and there were 49 stocks unchanged.

"The market barely managed to end higher. Sentiment is still shaky. We've been going up on thin volume and it looks like the market is due for a correction," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

"Overseas, consumer confidence in global markets like the U.S. and Japan was poised for a major rebound which should be good for us since these are our trading partners. But the political turmoil is dampening sentiments." *Reuters*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Court places Bayantel under receivership

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PASIG Regional Trial Court has placed the Lopezes' cash-strapped unit Bayan Telecommunications Inc. under receivership, thus allowing a moratorium on the servicing of about $477 million in debts.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Bayantel's parent company Benpres Holdings Corp. said it had received an order from the Pasig RTC on a petition for corporate rehabilitation filed by the Bank of New York, which acted on instructions of some unsecured bondholders—Avenue Asia Investments L.P., Avenue Asia International Ltd., Avenue Asia Special Situations Fund II L.P., Avenue Asia Capital Partners L.P., and Van Eck Global Opportunity Masterfund Ltd.

"There are inter-creditor issues that exist because of the two classes of creditors in Bayantel: secured and unsecured. The court-supervised process is expected to resolve such issues," the Benpres disclosure said.

The court order appointed Conchita L. Manabat as rehabilitation receiver for Bayantel, whose debt included $200 million in the form of bonds while the rest consisted of bank loans. The court receivership will prevent Bayantel's creditors from scrambling for its assets.

Angel Ong, chief operating officer of Benpres, said: "Bayantel's rehabilitation process has no impact on Benpres's own debt restructuring."

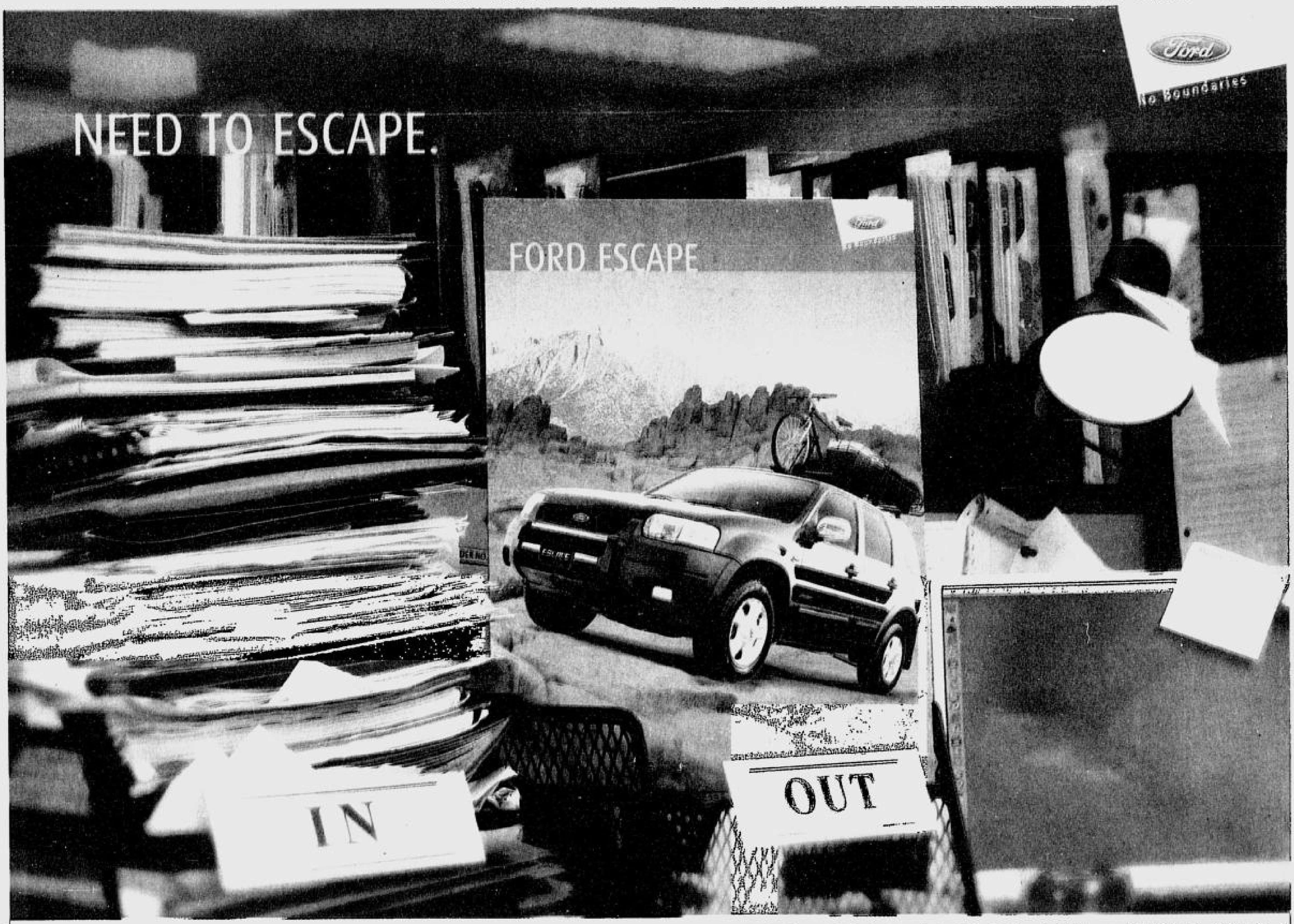
He emphasized that Benpres had already assumed that it would not get any cash dividend from Bayantel in its balance sheet management plan.

Ong likewise expressed hope that Bayantel would be able to speed up its debt restructuring. He also said Benpres had notified its own creditors' committee on the situation of its telecommunications unit.

Benpres itself is in discussions with its creditors on the restructuring of more than $500 million in debts, including guarantees on debts of subsidiaries. The holding company was hit hard when the Asian currency turmoil erupted, particularly because of its exposure in Bayantel and Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Benpres is targeting the completion of its debt restructuring talks by the end of this year.

"In the meantime, we continue to pay semi-annual interest payments," Ong said.



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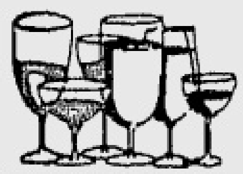

Victor C. Agustin

THE AYALA cinemas and other movie houses in Makati have become the revenue agencies of private foundations, with the Makati City Hall "compelling" the theaters to collect the imposition on every moviegoer.

"The Makati City Hall has indeed passed an ordinance compelling us to collect a P1 surcharge from every cinema patron," wrote Raffy Prats, Ayala Cinemas vice president, in reaction to an item in Cocktales on Wednesday.

The present P1 surcharge, collected at the movie box offices for the benefit of the Makati Environmental Foundation Inc., was imposed starting July 1 and would be charged until the end of the month.

"Since ordinances of this nature are passed almost every quarter, it has been our company policy for over a year now to absorb this P1 charge as a form of automatic service," Prats added.

In other words, the Greenbelt and Glorietta cinemas have already factored in the City Hall-mandated money-raising ventures—the Rotary club was named as one of the sponsors—into their respective ticket prices.

In turn, by going to the movies, the public has unwittingly been donating money to City Hall-sponsored causes.

Computer glitch

THE GOVERNMENT plan to install an Internet-based procurement system to purchase nearly P22 billion (2002 figures) of supply and materials needed by the bureaucracy is likely to suffer a judicial delay.

According to the grapevine, the Ayala Systems Technology will file a case with the Supreme Court next week to stop the alleged irregular award of the five-year contract for the establishment and maintenance of the web-based program.

The inter-agency bids and awards committee, chaired by Assistant Budget Secretary Eduardo Opida, is reportedly set to award the computer contract to the iTBF group headed by one Thomas Price.

The iTBF group, whose ownership provenance is not clear, allegedly plans to establish a mirror, or back-up site, of the procurement system in the United States, instead of basing it in the Philippines, as is being proposed by the Ayala unit.

Judicial cleansing

- THE SUPREME Court slapped a P15,000 fine on Judge Marvin Mangino of the Tarlac Municipal Trial Court for having approved a bail bond application of an Angeles City resident who later admitted she never even appeared before Mangino.

In addition, the criminal cases for which Mangino approved the bail bond were then pending in the Angeles City Regional Trial Court, specifically before Judge Eliezer delos Santos.

The Angeles RTC judge instituted the complaint after discovering the irregularity.

- Lawyer Victoriano Chiong Jr. has been suspended for two years by the Supreme Court after he was found to have filed a collection case plus damages against fellow lawyer Ramon Reyes and Assistant Manila City Prosecutor Pedro Salanga simply to obtain leverage against Reyes' client and Salanga, who had recommended the filing of an estafa case against Chiong's client.

Heard through the grapevine

SUBIC Base has been experiencing power fluctuations and power outages lately, to the discomfiture and annoyance of foreign investors who had been enticed to set up factories in the country's premiere free port.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

IMF forecasts RP economic growth at 4%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund said yesterday the pace of economic growth in the Philippines was expected to remain around 4 percent in 2003 despite the impact of the Iraqi conflict to its economy.

Last year the Philippine economy grew by 4.4 percent.

With oil prices backing down and pressure easing on the peso currency, inflation was expected to stay close to 3 percent this year compared with 3.1 percent last year, the fund said in a review of the Philippines' economy released in Washington.

"The Philippines emerged from financial market pressures in early 2003 largely unscathed, with robust economic growth and low inflation," the IMF executive board said in a statement arising from its Aug. 1 meeting on the post-program monitoring done by a fund mission in May.

Thanks to a quick resolution of the Iraqi conflict, fresh interest in emerging markets and easing financial market pressures, macroeconomic conditions in the Philippines are expected to stay favorable in the near term, the IMF said.

But the lender said an increase in the country's deficit target for 2003 and the postponement of the target year to balance the budget to 2009 from 2006, had heightened the urgency to protect the credibility of fiscal policies and ensure a sustainable economy.

While the IMF had revised its projected budget deficit for the Philippines in 2003 to P215 billion from P260 billion early this year, this was still higher than the government's target of P202 billion.

From April to July, the government was able to contain the budget deficit below the monthly ceilings, leading to expectations that with disciplined spending and continued improvement in collection, the gap could be narrowed to P178-P185 billion this year from P210.7 billion in 2002.

"Directors called on the Philippine authorities to move decisively to strengthen the medium-term fiscal vulnerabilities, contain the rapid increase in public indebtedness and increase the economy's resilience to shocks," the IMF said.

It said it was concerned with the decline in the finances of the state-run National Power Corp. and difficulties with privatizing its transmission assets.

"They underscored the importance of a stable and transparent regulatory framework to attract much needed investment into the power sector," the IMF said.

The IMF also encouraged the Macapagal administration to implement tax reforms that would complement efforts to strengthen tax administration.

"Measures with a significant potential for strengthening revenue include an increase and indexation of taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, higher oil excises and value-added tax rates and efforts to rationalize fiscal incentives," the Fund's said.

The fund praised the success of the country's central bank to stabilize the foreign exchange market, including several administrative measures to reduce demand for foreign exchange.

It said there was still room for the central bank to buy foreign exchange from the market to avoid a decline in official foreign reserves.

But it warned that intervention in the foreign exchange market should be used sparingly and focus should be on inflation targeting. *With a report from Reuters*

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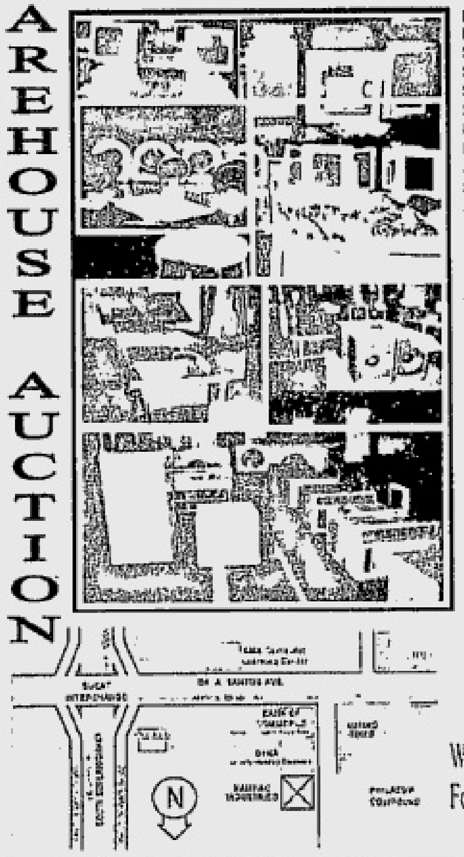
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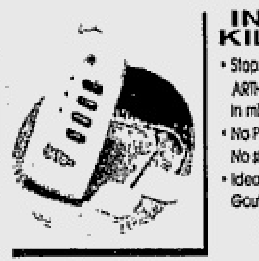

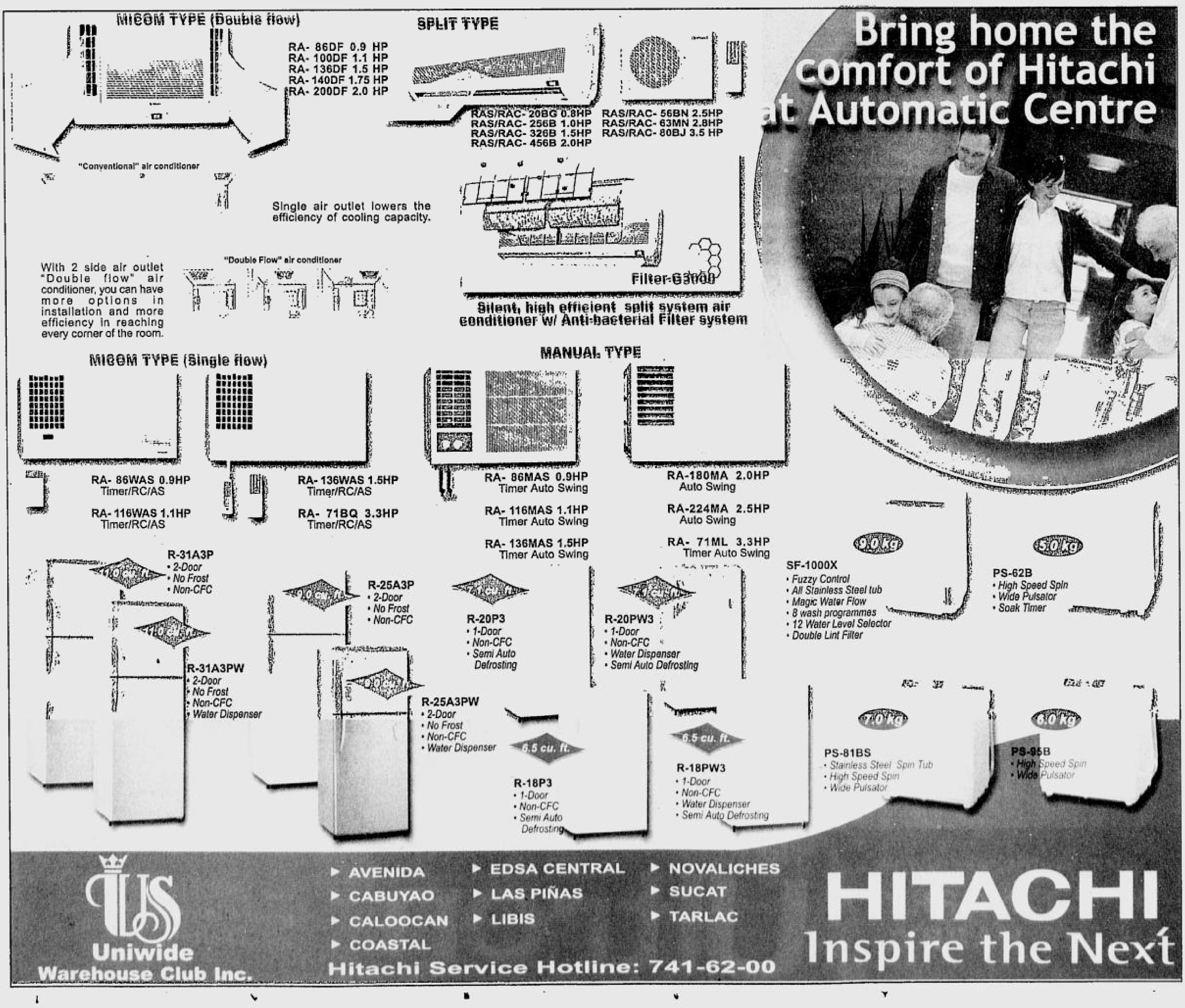
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12 foreign firms seen bidding for $40-M power project

Ronnel W. Domingo

AT LEAST 12 international investors are expected to bid today for the $40-million (about P2.1 billion) Cebu-Mactan interconnection project, the National Transmission Corp. said yesterday.

Transco president Alan T. Ortiz said in a statement that 29 companies signified their intention to join the regular two-envelope bidding for the contract, which is one of the major transmission projects in the Visayas.

Ortiz said the following firms had bough tender documents for the bidding: ABB of Sweden, Siemens of Germany, Alstom of France, Japan's Kanematsu Corp., Sumitomo Corp., Itochu Corp., Tomen Corp. and Mitsubishi Corp., as well as China's Xian, China National Technical, Iljin Electric Co. and Shanxi Machinery.

The official said financing for the project would be sourced from the Miyazawa Fund, with the Japan Bank for International Development (JBIC) acting as guarantor.

"Unlike what we did with the $68.5-

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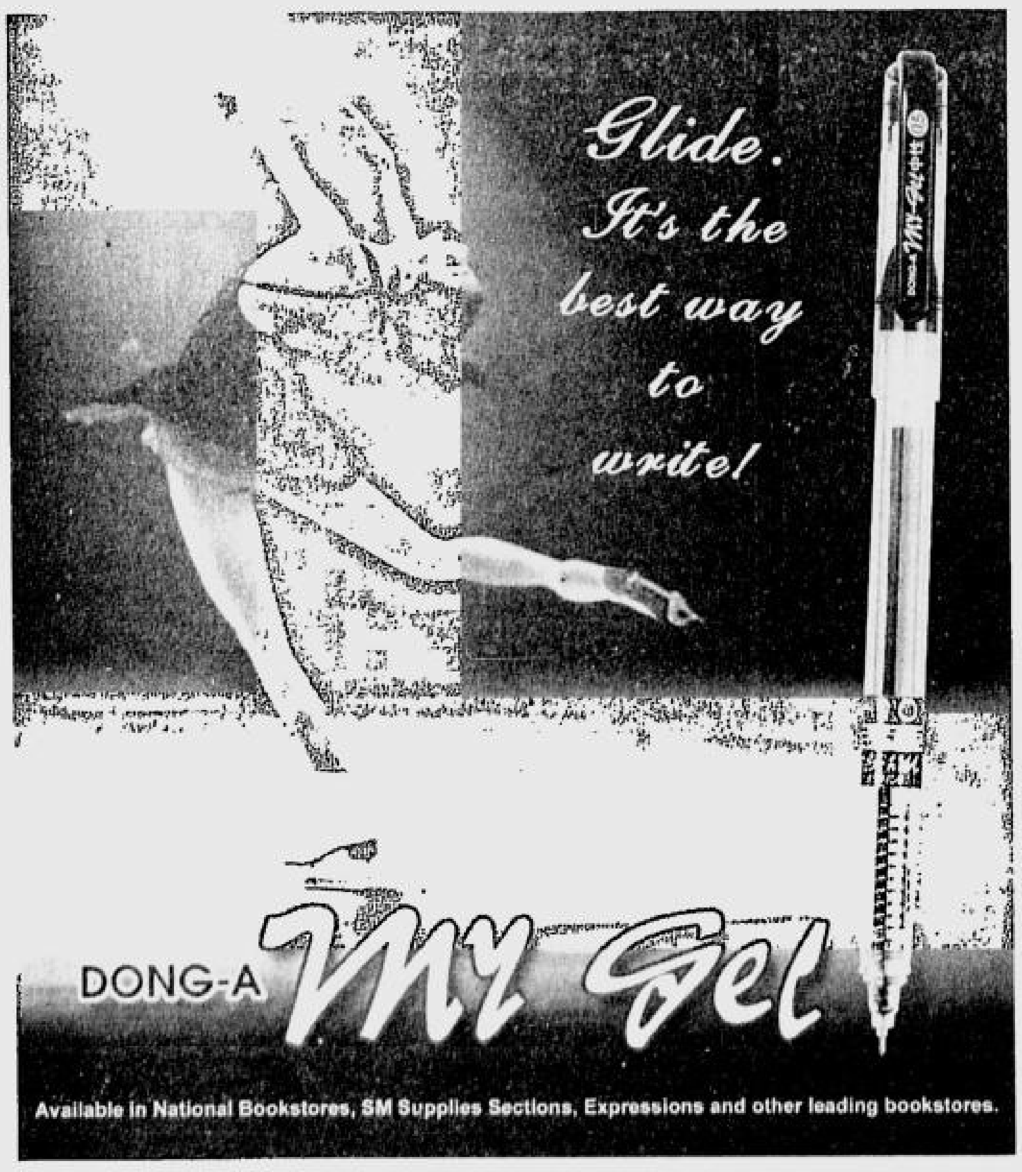

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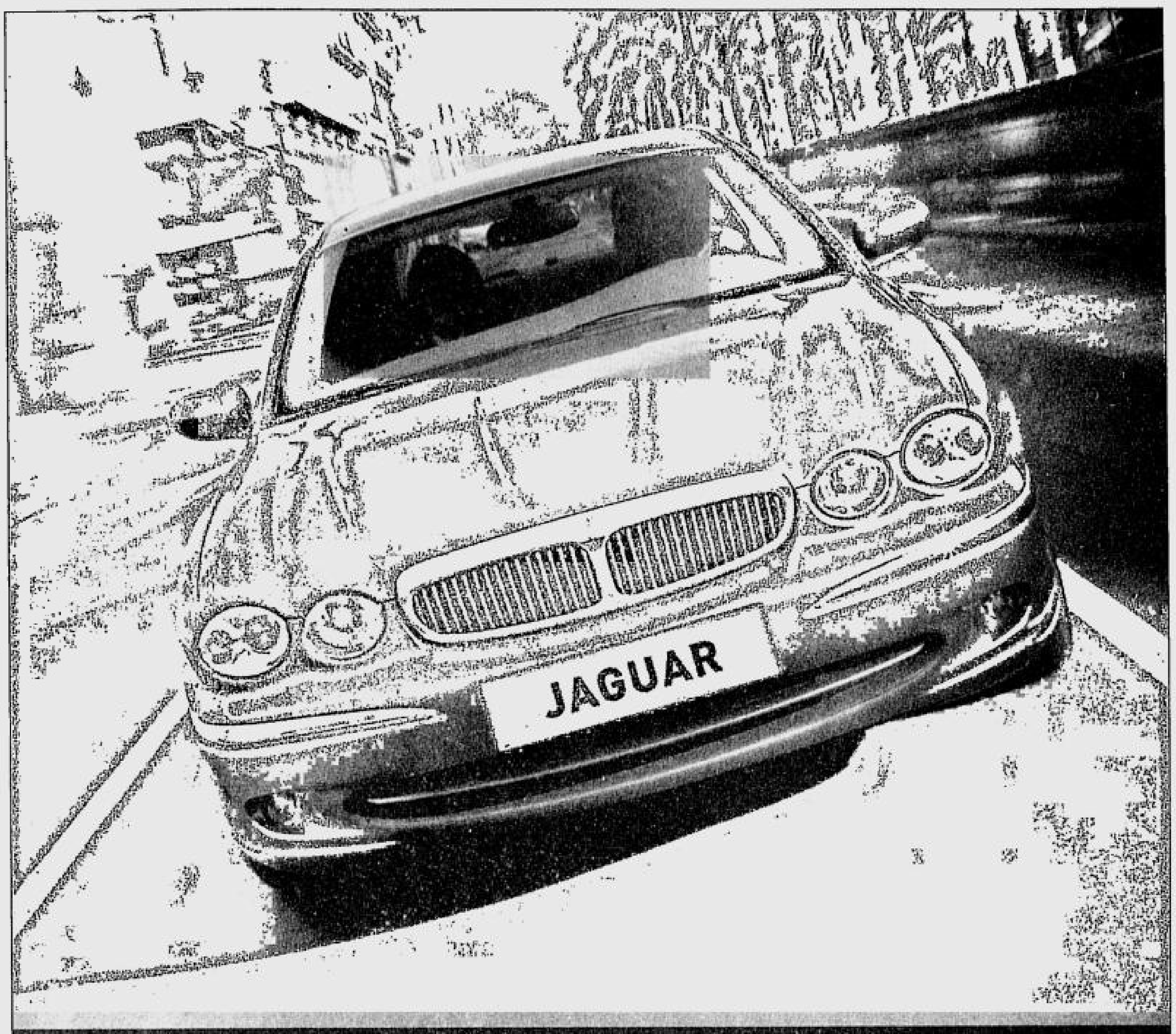

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Napocor considers transfer of Cebu power facility to Mindanao

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ILOILO CITY—State-firm National Power Corp. is looking at transferring its 54-megawatt oil-fired power plant in Talavera, Cebu, to either Davao or Gen. Santos City to augment the power supply shortfall in the area, company president Rogelio Murga said yesterday.

In an interview, Murga said Napocor would wait for a private investor that would take on the tasks of physically transferring the power plant and operating it.

"By law, Napocor is barred from building new generating capacity or entering into a contract with an independent power producer," he said. "The mothballed Talavera plant must be privatized first before it could run again."

Murga explained that the Talavera plant was one of the oil-fired generators that were mothballed under efforts to mitigate the country's excess generation capacity in the late 1990s as well as to wean the country from dependence on imported fuels.

He added that the sub-grid of Davao-GenSan suffered from power shortages whenever the transmission lines in Northern Mindanao had problems delivering electricity from the hydro plants in the area to the highly industrialized south.

"The capacity of the Talavera plant could fill in the 40-50 MW supply shortfall in Davao-GenSan area."

Also, Murga said the Joint Congressional Power Commission approved on Thursday Napocor's plan to transfer the 110-MW Pinamucan power plant in Batangas to Dingle town here.

12 . . .

From page B3

million Leyte-Cebu project, the Cebu-Mactan project would be bid out through the traditional two-envelope system," Ortiz said.

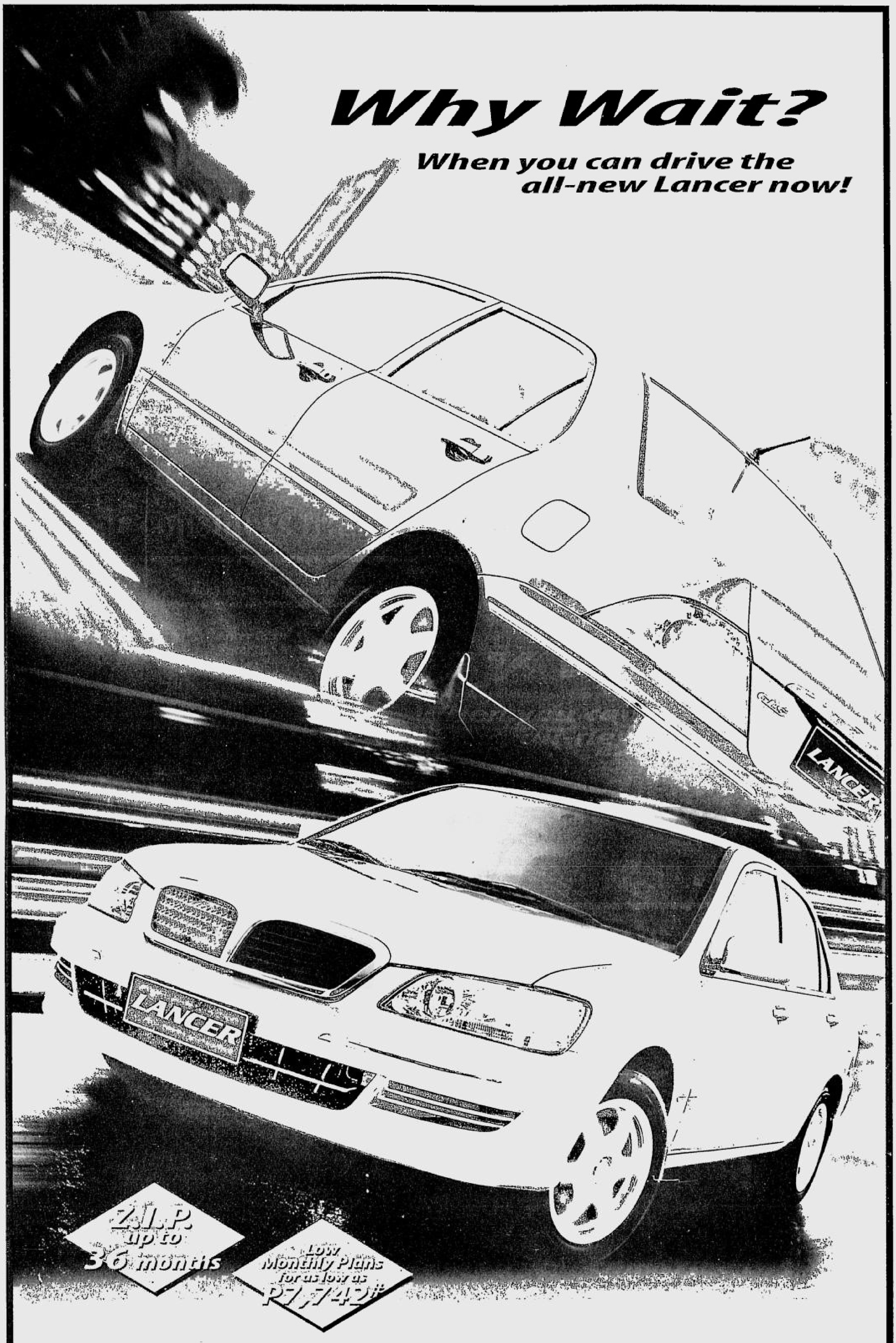
Transco last month conducted an electronic auction for the Leyte-Cebu project, which the Kanematsu-J Power System won. The state company has yet to formally announce the winner pending the approval by the board of directors.

Transco said the e-bidding meant savings in terms of money and time, with the project being started 10 months earlier that it would have under the traditional bidding system.

"(But) for projects that will be financed by loans from multilateral agencies like JBIC, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, we need to follow their bidding guidelines, which at this point do not include e-bidding yet," Ortiz explained.

He said Transco was expected to award the contract by December this year, with the project probably starting by January 2004 and completed by October 2005.

Ortiz said the Cebu-Mactan line would boost Transco's transmission capacity from the current 40 MW to 200 MW.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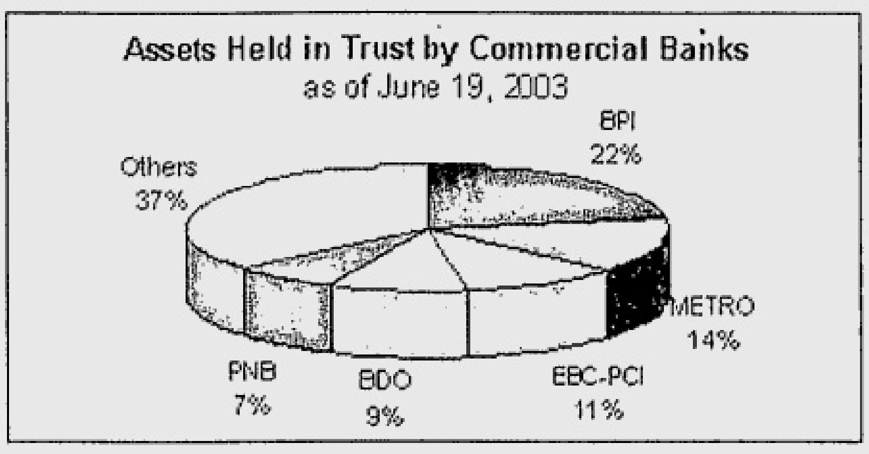

In terms of performance, BPI dollar denominated M2M funds continue to outperform industry benchmarks with a year-to-date return on investment of 3.71% for BPI Global Philippine Fund, 2.29% for BPI International Fund Plus and 16.80% for its BPI Global Equity Fund as of July 31, 2003. For the same period, the 90-day US Treasuries registered a yield of only 1.39%.

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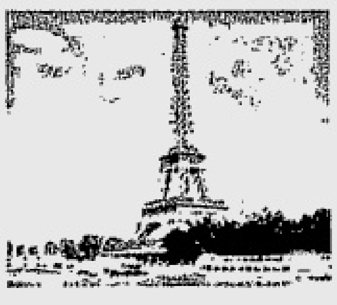

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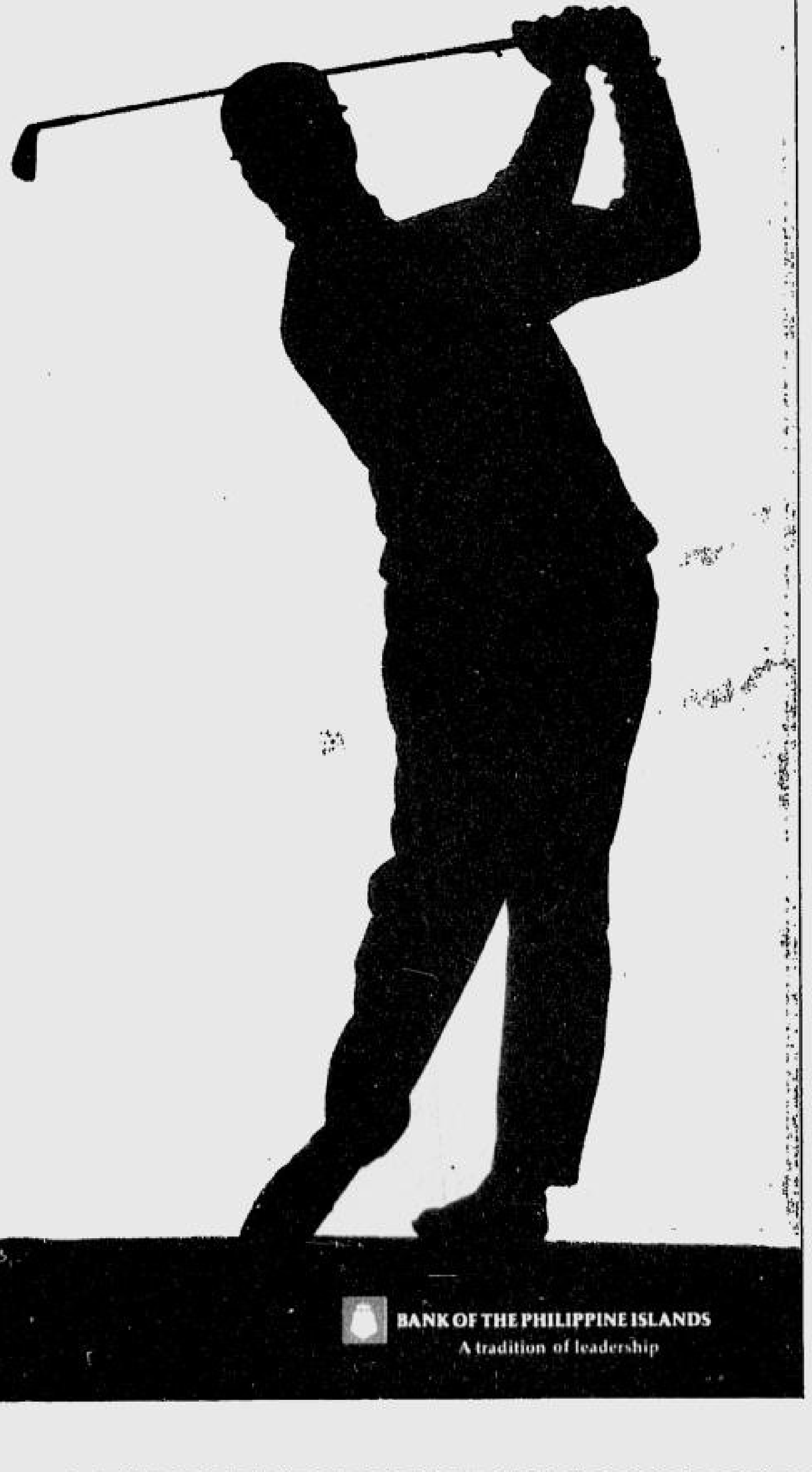

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Corn importation OKd

By Christine Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT the Department of Agriculture has directed the National Food Authority to import 150,000 metric tons of corn to avert a possible supply shortage.

Malacañang earlier approved the tax-free importation of corn after major corn farms in Cagayan Valley and Ilocos were destroyed by typhoon Harurot.

Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said in an interview that no less than the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, instructed the immediate beefing up of corn supply in the country.

The volume to be imported immediately was lower than the earlier estimated import requirement of 300,000 metric tons. Lorenzo said corn areas in Mindanao could fill up the remaining requirement.

Yellow corn is primarily used in the production of animal feeds. Thus, a shortage in supply and any increase in prices would adversely affect the supply and prices of meat.

The importation of 150,000 metric tons of corn was approved by the President upon the recommendation of the DA.

Lorenzo said the guidelines to govern the procurement and disposal of the imported corn would be prepared by the department, the NFA and other major stakeholders.

"We will make sure there will be transparency in the process and that the shipment will be managed in a manner that will benefit all concerned parties," he added.

The NFA is instructed to bring in the corn supply in September so as not to flood the market at the start of the corn harvest season in Mindanao in October.

"I will personally supervise the importation," Lorenzo said.

Attaining food security

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

COMMENTARY

"WE must agree on what food security really is. The government should also support us in achieving this," said Vicente Fabe, chair of Pakisama, the largest registered national peasant organization and a convenor of the Alyansa Agrikultura, a coalition of more than one million small farmers and fisherfolk throughout the country. He added, "There is much room for improvement in both areas."

Food security was raised as a major issue during the rice shortage crisis in late 1995, following the widespread destruction of agricultural crops by typhoon Rosing. A Food Security Summit was subsequently called in March 1996. Major policy positions on this issue were made in the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma) of 1997. In 1999, the Governors' Food Security Covenant was signed. In this covenant, the governors committed to achieve self-sufficiency in rice in 2002, corn in 2003, and fish in 2004. We did not meet the rice target last year. We will also not meet the corn target this year nor the fish target next year.

Reasons

A reason given is the lack of funds given to the Department of Agriculture to help meet these targets. One interpretation of the 1997 Afma law is that P7 billion should be added to the 1998 DA budget of P15.6 billion, or a total of P32.6 billion yearly from 1998 to 2004. Unfortunately, Congress approved an average annual budget allocation of only P17.5 billion from 1998 to 2002. What makes this worse is that the actual allotment given to the DA averaged at only P14.1 billion yearly, or P3.4 billion less than the approved amount. While the average agricultural growth rate from 2000 to 2002 has been 3.7 percent or almost twice the 2.1 percent growth in the 1990s, it was not enough to meet the food self-sufficiency target committed by the governors.

Another reason given is that the targets were done without the necessary planning and budgeting work at the local government level. Since the Afma stipulates that the local government units are the entities primarily responsible for agricultural development, they should likewise be the ones who should determine the targets and the resources necessary to achieve them. This did not happen.

Sufficiency, security

Food self-sufficiency is not the same as food security. In 1986, the World Bank identified the two essential elements of food security as the availability of food (the supply side) and the ability to acquire it (the demand side). It is therefore not correct to believe that each province should be self sufficient in rice, corn and fish to attain food security. If each province were to produce in areas where it has comparative advantage, there will be more food and higher incomes to purchase this food. That means there is food security.

Libronio Cabanilla, a UPLB professor and former president of the Philippine Agricultural Economics and Development Association (Paeda), did a study on five major grains-producing provinces (Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Camarines Sur, Occidental Mindoro and Bukidnon) and five that were not (Laguna, Pampanga, La Union, Batangas and Cavite). The production in the former group was concentrated on land-extensive output of temporary (rice and corn) and perennial crops (coffee). In the non-major grains-producing provinces, the emphasis was on land-intensive output such as swine and poultry. Professor Cabanilla reported that on the average, there were four people supported by a hectare of land in land-extensive provinces while in other areas, a hectare of land supports 14 people. He proposed that comparative advantage be considered the main determinant in deciding what products a province should produce. Thailand was cited for its shift from exporting corn to higher value-added products such as swine because that is where it has comparative advantage. It now benefits from better food security: more food at lower prices, and higher incomes.

Our national government agencies should therefore ask our local government executives what budget support mix they would get based on their province's comparative advantage (e.g., rice versus high value crops) instead of giving them a predetermined mix based on central planning.

Recommendation

As the deliberations on the 2004 agriculture budget go on, it is useful to look not only at enlarging agriculture's pie to be more consistent with the spirit of the Afma law. It is also important to look at the ingredients in each slice of the pie that will be given to every province. These ingredients should be unique and suited to each province as determined by the agricultural stakeholders guided by the principle of comparative advantage.

Since 1986, the only time these stakeholders came together in a focused way to do action planning for their province was last year. In each province, the officials of the local government, the DA, the relevant state colleges and universities, and the private sector closeted themselves in a three-day live-in action planning workshop. It is suggested that this be done again this year. It can build on last year's experience by emphasizing comparative advantage in food security's supply side (food availability) and demand side (the ability to acquire it). The farmer and fisherfolk leaders should play a crucial role in this process. Then Mr. Fabe will be assured that food security will be better understood and supported in a decentralized, empowering and transformative way.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former Undersecretary of the DA and the DTI, and chair/Secretary, Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 852-71-34)

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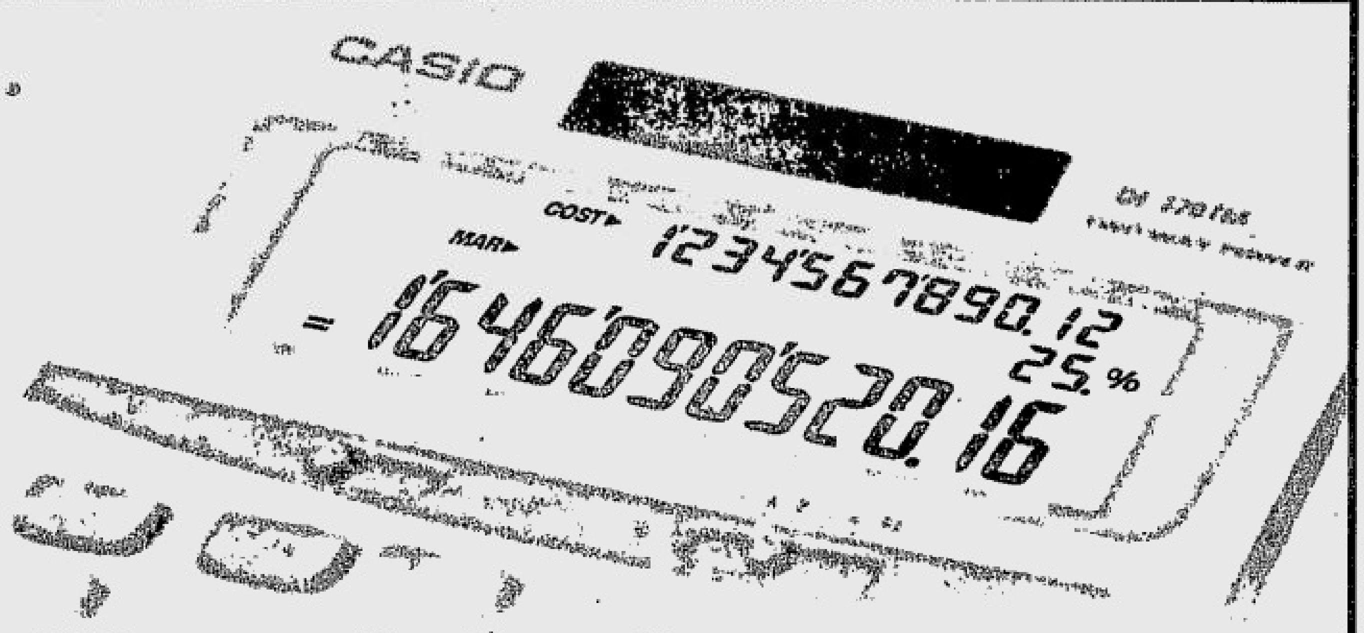

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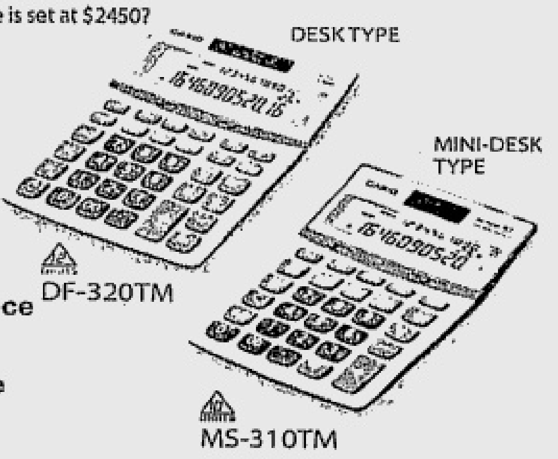

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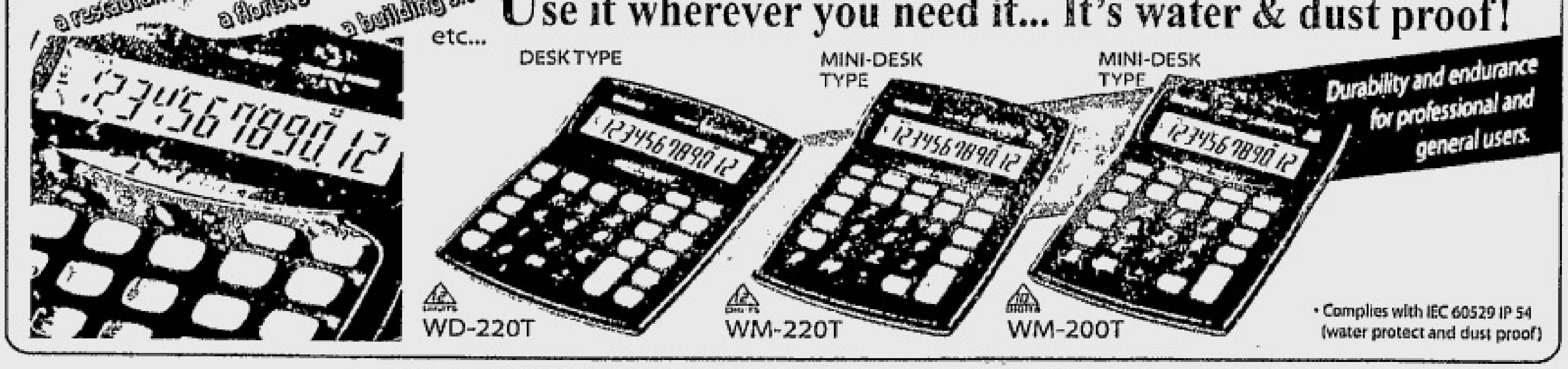

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 14, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	3,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	111,000
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	47	47	46	46.5	296,600
China Banking Corp.	640	640	640	640	30
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	35	35	34.5	34.5	148,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	30.5	30.5	185,600
Philippine National Bank	26	26	25	25	46,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14.25	13.75	13.75	69,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19.25	19	19.25	39,300
Union Bank Of The Phil.	25.5	26.5	25	26.5	337,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1650	1650	1650	1650	850
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.3	708,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1200	1210	1200	1210	8,520
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23	24	23	23.75	230,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	760,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	660	655	660	5,610
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	5,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.05	11,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	12,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.6	13,340,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	530	540	525	530	282,750
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	3,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	13	12.5	12.75	479,800
Manila Electric Co. B	19.25	19.5	18.5	18.75	1,049,500
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.06	2	2.02	2,584,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.85	758,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	13,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	375,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	32	32	31	31.5	152,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,037,300
Rfm Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	10,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	270,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	82,900
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	20,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.35	0.26	0.35	140,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.43	130,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.75	4.8	5,523,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	745,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.036	0.036	7,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.009	0.008	0.008	349,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	400,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.72	1.6	1.7	563,000
Atn Holdings Inc. B	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	220,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	450,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.68	0.61	0.61	43,100,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	20,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	800,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	1,330,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.044	0.045	0.04	0.04	4,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	1,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.25	17.75	17	17.25	1,315,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.12	0.13	1,020,000
Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.48	1.5	822,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	360,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	850,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.3	8,160,000
Music Corp.	0.42	0.43	0.39	0.4	3,700,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.3	0.3	5,590,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.14	0.14	810,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	220,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.1	0.1	1,900,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	286,100
Steniel Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	140,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	1,980,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	260,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	750,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	250,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	150,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23	24.25	23	24	496,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	8,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	6,336,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	1,070,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	3,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	3,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.04	5,064,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	500,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1	1	0.9	1	89,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	3,050,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.225	2,370,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	28,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	5.9	4,747,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.2	22,090,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.004	29,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.004	61,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	540,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	2,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	19,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	70,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	140,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	200,000

DISCLOSURES

ALLIANCE Global Group Inc.'s new independent public accountant is Punongbayan and Araullo.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.'s Cavite branch moved from Imus to Dasmariñas.

* * *

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. will conduct a stock rights offering at a ratio of one share for every share held at P1 per share to raise funds for the development of its race track at San Lazaro Leisure Park, Carmona, Cavite. Company president Alfonso Reyno Jr. will negotiate with Century Communities for the development of the company's 18-hectare Cavite property into a high-end residential subdivision.

* * *

EXPORT and Industry Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 12, 8 a.m. at the G/F of ExportBank Plaza, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 21 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc.'s subsidiary, Car Carriers Inc., will shorten its corporate life to Aug. 31, 2003.

* * *

DUE to changes in business plans, **Pancake House Inc.** and Jennifer Chua rescinded the investment agreement entered into by both parties in 2001.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

August 14, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.883236	1.000000	54.882000
Japan	Yen	0.007417	0.008398	0.460900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.420155	1.607900	88.244800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.113250	0.128222	7.037100
Switzerland	Franc	0.646822	0.732332	40.191800
Canada	Dollar	0.640537	0.725216	39.801300
Singapore	Dollar	0.503756	0.570353	31.302100
Australia	Dollar	0.579475	0.656082	36.007100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.342926	2.652661	145.583300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.235530	0.266667	14.635200
Brunei	Dollar	0.502324	0.568731	31.213100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000117	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021155	0.023952	1.314500
UAE	Dirham	0.240487	0.272279	14.943200
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.132200	62.137400
Argentina	Peso	0.307213	0.347826	19.089400
Brazil	Real	0.291690	0.330251	18.124800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134576	0.152367	8.362200
India	Rupee	0.019263	0.021810	1.197000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.232482	0.263193	14.444600
Mexico	New Peso	0.082469	0.093371	5.124400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518118	0.586613	32.194500
Norway	Kroner	0.120234	0.136129	7.471000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015347	0.017376	0.953600
South Africa	Rand	0.119557	0.135362	7.428900
Korea	Won	0.000749	0.000848	0.046500
Sweden	Kroner	0.108586	0.122941	6.747200
Syria	Pound	0.021030	0.023810	1.306700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025766	0.029172	1.601000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000554	0.000627	0.034400

Manila Jockey Club sets rights offering to fund Cavite racetrack

By Doris C. Dumlao

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. has set a stock rights offering to fund the development of a new horse racetrack at its 77-hectare San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

At the same time, MJIC is negotiating a possible joint venture with property developer Century Communities for the development of about 18 hectares of the Carmona property into an upscale residential subdivision.

The rights offering, which will be issued at P1 for every share held, will be accompanied by a 20-percent stock dividend wherein a stockholder will be entitled to 1/5 share for every share held, MJIC spokesperson Peter Francis Zagala told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

These plans were approved by MJIC's board in a regular meeting held last Wednesday.

To accommodate the proposed rights offering and the issuance of dividends, MJIC will raise its authorized capital stock to P500 million from P300 million.

"To enhance the development of its real estate properties, MJIC shall transfer its non-core assets to a qualified company through a property-share swap," Zagala said.

This means that MJIC is scouting for a solvent listed company into which it will infuse its non-core assets, but the swap should result in its 90-percent ownership of the company, he noted.

Earlier, MJIC segregated a four-hectare portion of its 16-ha property in San Lazaro, Manila, for conversion into a shopping area while the racetrack operation is to be relocated to Cavite. It later clinched a multibillion-peso deal with local retail giant SM Prime Holdings of Henry Sy Sr., giving the latter the right to develop and put up a shopping mall in the area.

INTEREST RATES

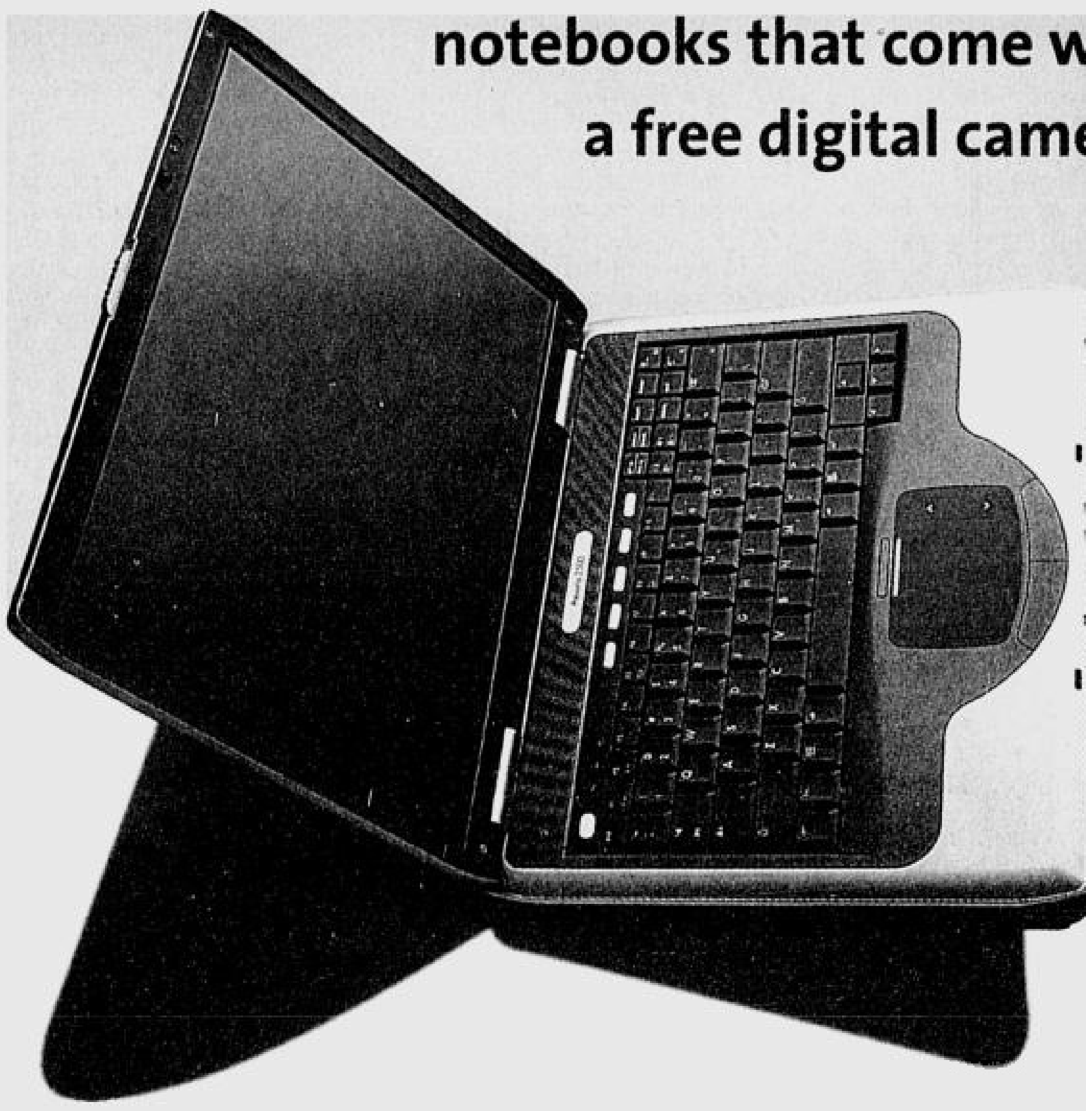
August 14, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 14-Aug-03	MART1 13-Aug-03
1 Month	5.9266	5.884
3 Months	5.9179	5.9383
6 Months	6.8946	6.9033
1 Year	7.9804	7.9696
2 Years	9.3732	9.3467
3 Years	9.9	9.925
4 Years	10.2464	10.2518
5 Years	10.4946	10.4867
7 Years	11.2661	11.2429
10 Years	11.7161	11.7214
20 Years	12	11.9964
25 Years	12.3768	12.3429

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

HOME

> Picture this--featured Compaq Presario notebooks that come with a free digital camera.



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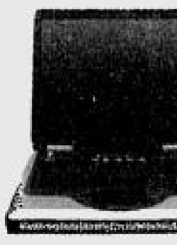

> Compaq Presario 2543AP notebook
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2035, Series of 2003

SM Prime profit up 9% to P2B in first 6 mos.

By Elena R. Torrijos

MALL operator SM Prime Holdings Inc., owned by retail magnate Henry Sy, posted a 9-percent increase in profit in the first half of this year to P2.039 billion from last year's P1.875 billion.

In a statement, SM Prime said SM City Bicutan and SM City Cagayan de Oro, which opened November last year with occupancy levels of nearly 100 percent, contributed more than 45 percent of the company's total revenue growth.

SM Prime's rental revenue grew 9 percent to P3.34 billion from P3.05 billion in the same period last year.

Cinema ticket sales rose 16 percent to P740 million from P638 million in view of several blockbuster movies shown in SM theaters.

SM Prime also said that revenue from amusement operations and other segments registered a 13-percent increase to P225 million from P198 million.

However, operating expenses grew by 12 percent to P1.791 billion from P1.593 billion last year due to higher depreciation expenses brought about by the opening of the new malls and increased film rentals.

At present, SM Prime is constructing three new malls, namely SM City Baguio, SM City Marilao in Bulacan, and SM City Lucena, Quezon. The malls are scheduled to open in the fourth quarter of 2003.

SM City Lucena will be a four-level mall with a gross floor area of 72,000 square meters sitting on an 7.9-hectare property.

Similarly, SM City Marilao will be a four-level structure with a gross floor area of around 78,000 sq.m. It will be located on a 13-ha property along McArthur Highway, Marilao, Bulacan.

Also under construction, SM City Baguio will be on an 8-ha property along Session Road. It will have a gross floor area of 105,000 sq.m.

With the opening of the three new malls, SM Prime said it would have 17 malls with a total gross area of around 2.2 million sq.m.

GIR only at $13.7B as of June, says IMF

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves stood only at $13.7 billion as of June, or lower than the $15.8 billion reported by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, according to the International Monetary Fund.

As this developed, the peso lost ground yesterday dropping to 54.93 to $1, down 10 centavos from Wednesday's close due to jitters arising from the Court of Appeals' order suspending BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura and his deputy for banking supervision Alberto Reyes for one year.

The central bank said it would appeal the CA decision and was confident its officials would be exonerated from allegations that they abused their authority and neglected their duties in relation to the closure of Urban Bank Inc. in April 2000.

Based on an IMF report, which was released yesterday, the country's external reserves minus gold and securities pledged as collateral against short-term liabilities stood $2.1 billion lower than the BSP's unadjusted data.

The BSP releases to the public only the unadjusted GIR report.

"The IMF figure is net of the assets used as collateral. I don't know why they (IMF) use that computation. If they want to show the reserves net of liabilities, then they should use the net international reserves," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Net international reserves stood at $12.822 billion in July from $12.338 billion in June. The net reserves are computed by deducting short-term liabilities and IMF loans from the GIR, according to Tetangco.

The central bank official said the IMF probably wanted to show that the adjusted reserves represent "the extent (of reserves) that is readily available" because a portion of the GIR was used as collateral for loans.

"This is why we release both the GIR and the NIR to guide the market accordingly. The reason why we do not adjust the GIR is because the collateral for loans is still owned by the country. In short, there is no transfer of ownership," Tetangco explained.

The true level of external reserves is important to the financial markets. A declining GIR will add pressure to the peso because it implies the weakness of the central bank to defend the local currency against speculation.

Consisting mainly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank that also include gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the International Monetary Fund.

The adjusted GIR was last seen at the $13 billion level in 2001. In 2000, it was slightly stronger at $13.4 billion but down from $13.8 billion in 1999. The adjusted external reserves stood at $9.6 billion in 1998.

From $15.8 billion in June, the unadjusted GIR increased to $16.139 billion in July given the due remaining proceeds from the $750 million worth of bonds earlier issued by the government in behalf of the National Power Corp.

Asia-Pacific airlines still world's worst performers

FOR the second straight month, Asia-Pacific airlines suffered the most in the aviation sector from the ill effects of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak with passenger volume declining by 35.8 percent in June.

Data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) showed that Asia-Pacific flag carriers remained the worst performers in the world in terms of passenger volume. In May, these airlines registered a 50.8-percent drop in passenger volume.

Airlines in the region responded to the drop in passenger traffic by further slashing available capacity by 27.2 percent, following the 30.7-percent reduction in May.

In the first semester, the Asia-Pacific region posted a 15.6-percent drop in traffic level compared from year-ago level.

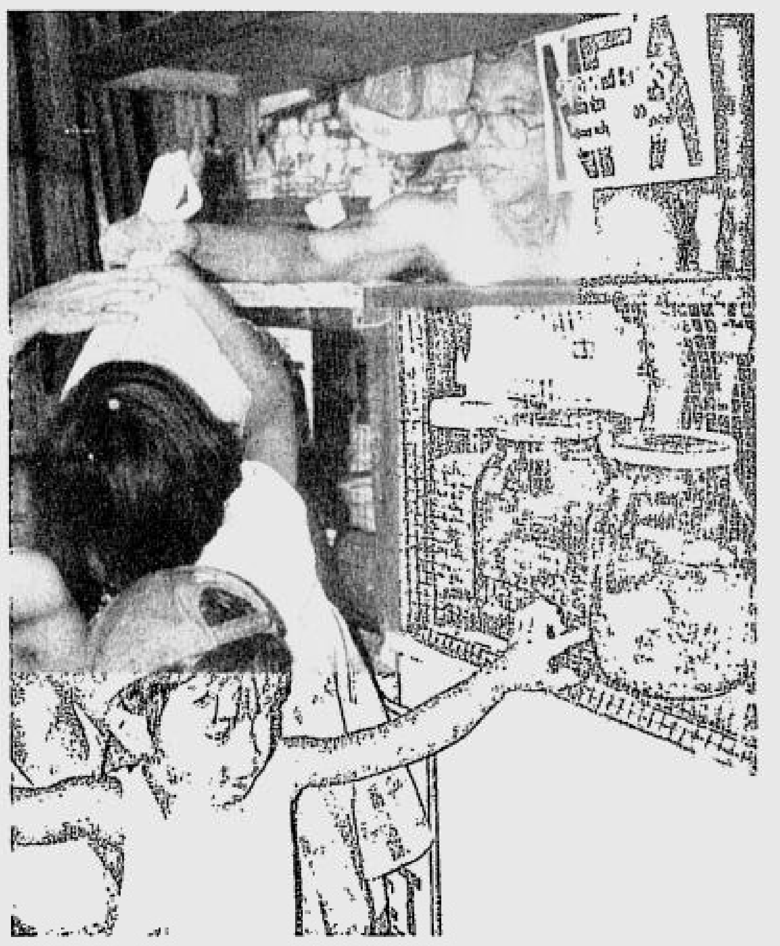
However, IATA director general and chief executive Giovanni Bisignani said the industry was already beginning to recover from the ill effects of the SARS outbreak, citing the improvement in traffic from May to June.

"The industry turned the corner in June. Although we are still well below where we were at the same time last year, travelers are returning. We expect that traffic recovery will intensify through July and August as a result of pent-up demand and the northern hemisphere summer holiday season," he said in a statement.

On a global scale, passenger volume for the month of June declined 11.8 percent, prompting all airlines to cut available capacity by 9.6 percent to be able to maintain a normal industry-wide load factor of around 70 percent.

In the first six months, global passenger traffic fell by 7.1 percent from year-ago level.

Carriers in all regions except the Middle East and South America posted declines in passenger volume during the first half. *Abigail L. Ho*



MANY families buy their staple from sari sari stores that sell on "tingi" basis.

FEATURES

Average Filipinos still live on 'tingi'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Macapagal administration's sturdy growth figures have camouflaged the fact that Filipinos now thrive on the "economy of the *tingi* (piece meal)," alternative research group Ibon Foundation said here recently.

Philippine consumer patterns remain steady "simply because people have started to rely on a packet of (cooking) oil worth P1, or a packet of milk for P1 everyday," said Ma. Theresa Nera-Lauron, Ibon program coordinator.

Superficial

Lauron said the country's economic performance for the first half of 2003 is stable but superficial.

Despite a low 2.7-percent inflation rate, that appeared unfazed by the United States invasion of Iraq early this year, economists fail to qualify the value of goods the typical Filipino consumes, she said.

Ibon is reviewing raw data to determine how the July 27 aborted mutiny impacts on the economy, now that the 2004 presidential election is fast approaching.

"The government tries to paint a picture that the economy is improving. Although it says that inflation is decreasing, it is clear that the prices of commodities are increasing," Lauron said.

"Everything a household buys is in *tingi* (small packets). That's how we survive. We remain good consumers (as evidenced by the macroeconomic indicators), but the government does not (acknowledge what we all buy). Buying *tingi* is not (a) normal (consumer pattern because it is more costly in the long run)."

Using Ibon's estimates of decent living standards, 88 percent of Filipinos would fall below the poverty line, Ibon said.

Poor household

The government estimates describe a poor Filipino household as one that survives on P38 a day.

"Recently the (Macapagal) administration further reduced the incidence of poverty by redefining the poverty measures (that) should apply to a family of five instead of six," said Rosario Bella Guzman, an Ibon economist, in a briefing paper that Lauron quoted.

The paper said: "Thus from a poverty incidence of 40 percent of 80 million people, the Philippines pretends to have reduced poverty incidence to only 28.4 percent.

"Despite low inflation and steady oil supply, prices of basic commodities continue to increase. In the quarter of April to June, prices of basic stuff such as canned goods, bread, condiments, salt, milk, coffee, and candles increased by as much as 3 percent, higher than the recorded inflation rate."

Damage control

Lauron said the President's economic policy relied on non-tangible industries like the speculative stock market and real estate market as well telecommunications to give a glowing GDP growth figure.

Lauron said the government had acknowledged these failings, but had not explored them. Instead, she said, the government was busy with damage control efforts to curb its deficit spending.

Election years normally upset the growth scale of certain industries, Lauron said, because polls artificially stimulate local economies and local consumption patterns.

She said the latest economic figures were reinforced by high remittances from overseas Filipino workers, at the height of the US invasion of Iraq.

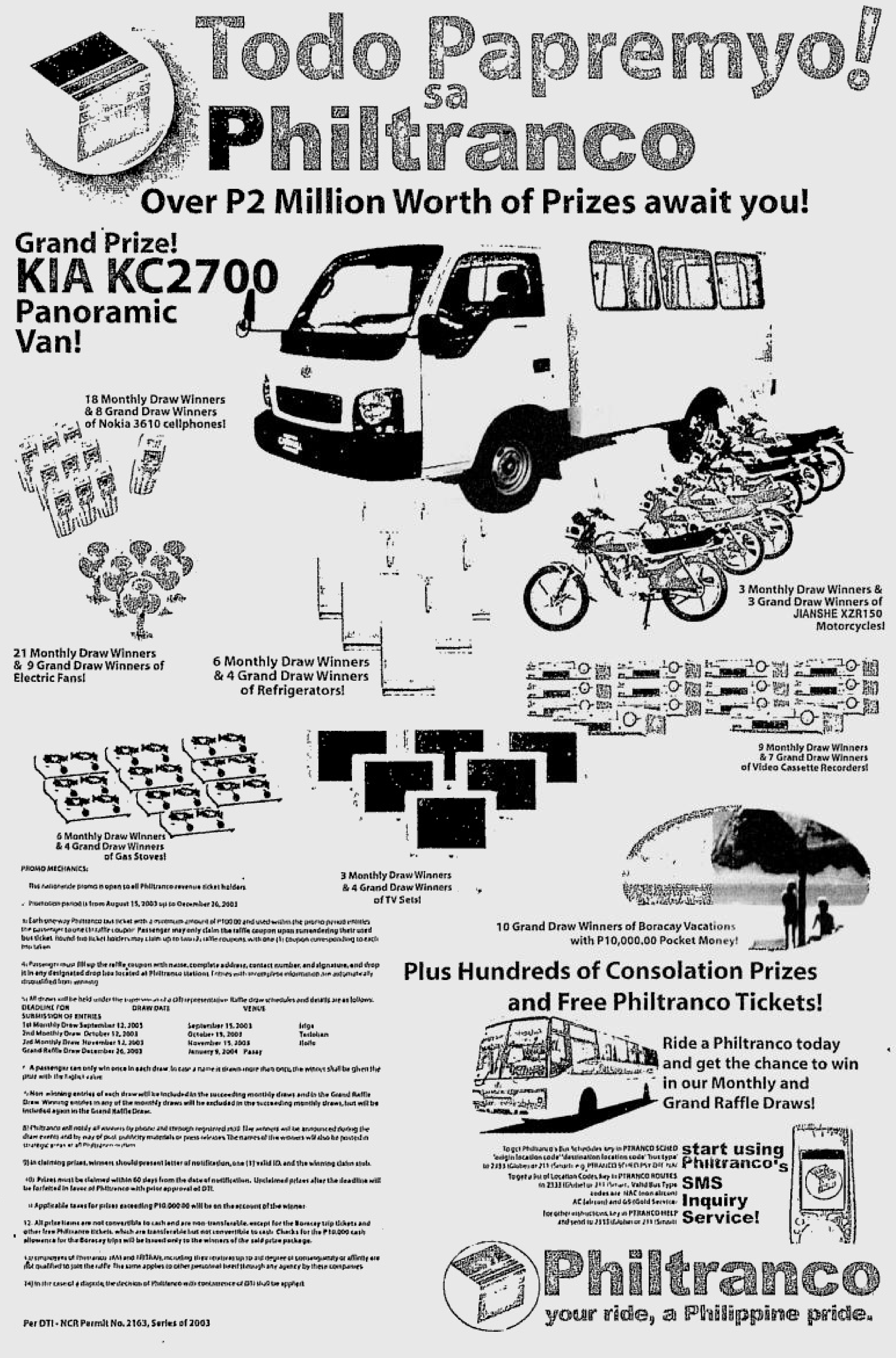
Relying on OFWs

Ibon noted a 5- to 10-percent increase in remittances from the initial 22 percent poured in between January and June.

"The OFWs facing a bleak future decided to pour in all their assets back to the Philippines," she said. "If your life or livelihood is in danger, the best thing to do is remit all your assets back to your family. This season is also school season which accounts for the heavy remittance this period."

Ibon executive director Antonio Tujan said in his paper that the gross national product growth rate "has increased even further to 5.6 percent" in one of the strongest performances since the Ramos administration. But the increase was due to the remittances, he noted.

Even after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in New York and the recent US-Iraq conflict, 3,000 people leave the country each day for overseas employment, he said



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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 2163, Series of 2003

EU, US put up WTO farm trade plan, meet flak

GENEVA—The European Union and the United States on Wednesday put up a plan for farm trade reform that could inject new life into stalled talks for a new global trade pact—but poorer countries said "no go." The scheme, presented to the World Trade Organization (WTO) just hours after it was drafted, came as the 146 members of the body battled to find something to agree on at a key ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, next month.

The gathering—at the half-way point of the WTO's troubled Doha Round—is widely viewed as a make-or-break effort, and diplomats say the making or breaking depends almost entirely on everyone agreeing on how to handle agriculture.

The proposal from the 15-nation EU and the United States—the biggest players in global trade in farm goods—was concluded on Tuesday night by negotiators who have been locked in closed-door talks for the past two weeks.

The plan, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, covered the three key areas of agricultural trade—domestic support, export subsidies and market access—but avoided putting figures on its call for reforms.

Although billed by EU Farm Commissioner Franz Fischler as offering a good deal to developing countries and other agricultural powers like Australia and New Zealand, it seemed to have failed to impress.

Brazil's Luiz Felipe de Seixas Correa said the 18-nation Cairns Group of farm produce-exporters—which includes emerging economies and some richer nations—felt the plan "falls short" of targets set for the Round. *Reuters*

Bush advisers optimistic about economic growth

CRAWFORD, Texas—President George W. Bush said Wednesday "we're upbeat" about the US economy despite soaring budget deficits and a frustratingly high unemployment rate.

Bush credited two rounds of major of tax cuts with stabilizing the economy after recession and corporate scandals. He said he had no plans now for another tax-cutting program.

The president spoke to reporters on his ranch after meeting for two hours with his senior economic advisers.

"We believe strongly that tax relief ... is going to have a very positive effect on economic growth and vitality," as well as helping create more jobs, Bush said. "We're upbeat about the chances."

Democrats and some economists say budget deficits building up under the administration's policy are perilous for the long term. And a new poll suggests three-fourths of the public considers the current national deficit a problem.

Bush, asked about the possibility of new tax cuts, said, "As of this moment, we feel the plans we have in place are robust enough.

Bush was briefed by Treasury Secretary John Snow, Commerce Secretary Don Evans, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and other advisers.

A Washington Post poll released Tuesday evening found 73 percent think the budget deficit is a problem and 23 percent think it is not. Just over half, 52 percent, said Bush bears a good amount of responsibility for the deficit. The poll has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

The nation's unemployment rate stood at 6.2 percent in July, businesses cut jobs for the sixth month in a row, and the administration announced this summer that in part because of the weak economy the annual budget deficit would soar to $455 billion this year and $475 billion in 2004, both records in dollar terms.

The Federal Reserve held a key short-term interest rate at a 45-year low on Tuesday and signaled its intention to keep credit easy "for a considerable period."

Several critics of Bush's economic policies said Tuesday that short-term improvements in the economy shouldn't cloak the dangers of the growing federal deficit. *AP*

Japan closures drop in July

TOKYO—Japanese corporate bankruptcies fell in July for the seventh straight month, hitting their lowest level of the year as restructuring and lending by official bodies helped firms in trouble, a research firm said on Thursday.

The figures from independent research firm Teikoku Databank back up other data suggesting that a mild economic recovery may be taking hold. The latest such evidence was surprisingly strong April-June economic growth figures released this week.

Teikoku said bankruptcies in July dropped 23.7 percent from a year earlier to 1,384 cases. The total was down 1.0 percent from June's 1,398 cases.

The debts of firms that went belly-up also continued to fall, totaling 700.81 billion yen ($5.88 billion), a 41.8-percent drop from a year earlier and 14.1 percent below June's total. It was the fourth straight month under one trillion yen.

In another positive sign, a range of sectors, including manufacturing, retail and services, saw their lowest monthly failures of the year in July.

Teikoku attributed the fall in the number of failures to restructuring efforts by struggling firms, as well as factors such as an expansion of lending to small and medium-sized enterprises by government-affiliated financial institutions.

"We still think it is difficult to say that Japan has entered a sustainable recovery ... and we still do not see strong impetus coming from areas such as capital spending and private consumption," Teikoku said in a statement. *Reuters*

Asian markets mostly stronger

SINGAPORE—Japanese shares were flat on Thursday after four days of gains, but other Asian stocks were mostly stronger despite falls in US bond and equities markets on fears of higher interest rates.

The dollar inched up against the yen as the fallout over the falling prices of US assets was replaced by optimism on the positive fundamentals of the world's biggest economy.

In Japan, profit-taking on banking giant UFJ Holdings, which has led gains since the beginning of the week, took the market lower but this was balanced by demand for basic materials firms like steelmaker JFE Holdings.

"Investors are taking profits. That move is most clearly evident in UFJ's decline," said Koji Muneoka, head of domestic sales trading at HSBC.

"But foreign investors are still buying cyclicals. There's not much selling on these shares."

Markets elsewhere in Asia were stronger, although the gains were mild compared to Wednesday, when sentiment was strongly boosted by the US Fed's announcement that it would leave interest rates at 45-year lows for the foreseeable future.

A Morgan Stanley Capital International index of markets outside Japan was up 0.31 percent at a new 14-month high.

Markets in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Korea were all higher although New Zealand was a touch down.

Treasury yields were only marginally down in Asian trade after the surge in New York. The dollar moved in lockstep with bonds and stocks in New York, but the greenback managed to recover against the yen in early Asian trading as dealers shifted their focus from reeling US asset markets to strong economic fundamentals.

"The dollar fell along with the bond and share markets but selling was mostly dominated by short-term players," said a dealer at a major Japanese bank.

"If you look at economic fundamentals in the United States, the dollar is still a buy."

The slightly firmer dollar against the yen put pressure on bullion in quiet trade, with many Japanese players away from their desks at the height of the "Obon" summer holiday week. *Reuters*

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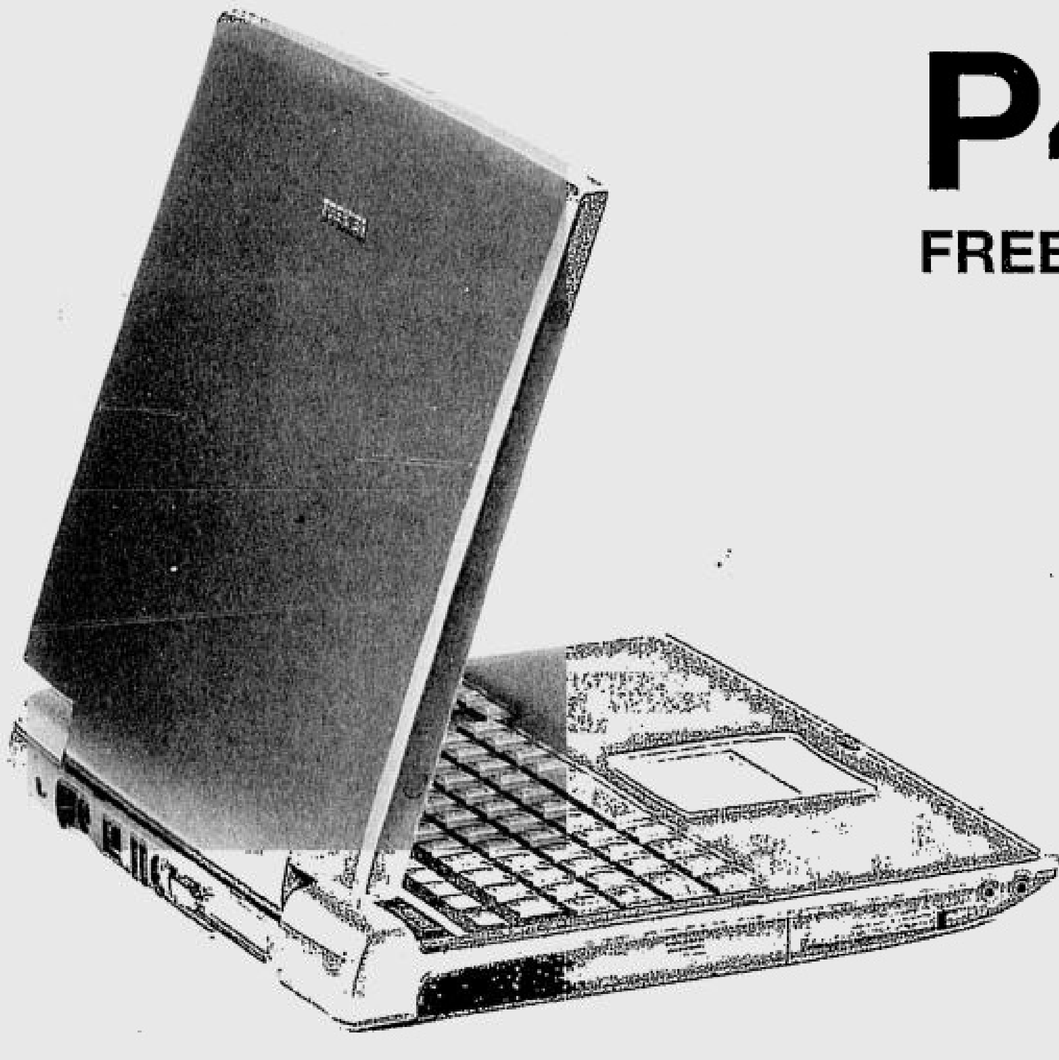

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PHASE 3
2 UNITS SOLD, ONLY 3 LEFT
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PHASE 4
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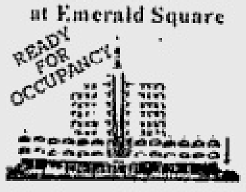
QUEZON CITY

The TOWER at Emerald Square



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SALE OR LEASE TO OWN
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Mandaluyong City
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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

1BR up&dwn 1635 EQuintos Samp 9122304/9510647pm

4NEW APT 2BR SEPARATE CR & SR E. QUINTOS ST SAMPALOC 09164998026 09174689930

QUEZON CITY

2BR almost new #10 Trinity Cubao 438-2923/422-7384

Cubao P3.5 Std Lady 9124428

•P4.0T STUDIO T-926-7433

FOR LEASE

Whse Mkt/QC500sqm7233897

BEDSPACE

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

Back QC Hall 23-426QM P12T up Tel 9290163/62

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

OFFICE/STORAGE IN CONTAINER VAN IN A MALL SUCAT, PQUE LOW LEASING RATES 5414358 • 5414399

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95 HONDA ESI T5237927

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★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MB STAREX URVAN 8276605

Van 0917-6620993 • 6421840

Vans4Rent 8254058 8261045

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1% EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1HR FastCarLoan 7126202

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7228042-43

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

August 7, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Name of Project	:	Supply of Security Tools, Laptops and Services for the Acceptance of the fully Outsourced EFPS
Location of the Project	:	BIR National Office
Approved Budget	:	P2,000,000.00
Contract Duration	:	October 1 to December 31, 2003

All interested parties may get the bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City starting **August 11, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)**.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **August 22, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the 3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.**

Deadline for the submission and opening of eligibility, technical and financial proposals shall be on **September 10, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the 3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City**, and followed by the opening of the bids.

The criteria to be used by the BIR in the following: (a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; (b) examination and evaluation of bids; and (c) postqualification, shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 926-5547/926-5538 and telefax no. 928-2026 or e-mail us at nelly.ibo@bir.gov.ph until *September 9, 2003.*

(Sgd.) MILAGROS V. REGALADO
Assistant Commissioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug 15 2003)

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

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sat & sun

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2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

GE Ref 13 c.f. P9T 896-2271

BUY/SELL

Fuly Pd Educ Plan 7137284

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ELITE PIANO CENTER
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MALE/FEMALE

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FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 5280730 589-9958

SALES AGENTS for Tissue Products 4135862/7347363

TRAINOR NRSNG. NUTRTN. PT. ENG maj., GRAD Call 7211021 loc. 202 0919-4733948 Vicky, Reggie

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 6271590

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late ANTERO DUCIL was extrajudicially settled with waiver of shares among the heirs per Doc 03 Page 1 Book V Series of 2003 bef. Notary Public Jennifer Sta Ana of Mkna City (PDI-Aug 8,15 & 22, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Rodrigo F. Galvez was adjudicated to Rosa A. Galvez per Doc. 148, Page 30, Book XIV, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Santiago D.R. Agdeppa of Quezon City.
(PDI-Aug 8, 15, 22, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sps. Fortunato and Soledad Pauso located at San Juan, M.M. has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc. No. 210, Page No. 42, Book No. 54, Series of 2003 by Notary Public Ana R. Garcia of San Juan, M.M. (PDI-August 1, 8 and 15, 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE THAT HEIRS OF OSCAR BASCO ESCOBAR EXECUTED EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF HIS ESTATE DATED MAR. 16, 2003 PER DOC 301, PAGE 66 BOOK 2 SERIES OF 2003 ACKNOWLEDGED BY CHERYLL JUNE M. CALAGUIO OF PASIG CITY (PDI - Aug. 1, 8 & 15, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALIEN CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION WITH REG. NO. E215458 UNDER THE NAME OF RONALD VAN DOGGENAAR WAS REPORTED LOST.
PDI-Aug. 8 & 15, 2003

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Call POEA at
722-1144
or 722-1155

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contracts for which this invitation for qualification and bid is issued.

The **Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission** as the Executing Agency and the **Municipality of Rodriguez** as the Implementing Agency are inviting **"AAA" CATEGORY CONTRACTORS** to apply for Qualification and Bid for the following packages:

CONTRACT PACKAGE	CONTRACT NO.	LOCATION	CONTRACT DURATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION/AREA
1. Site Development of School Bldgs.	EPA-RAP-CF01	Blk. 1, F. Rodriguez Extn. Villa Ana Maria Subd. Brgy. San Jose Rodriguez, Rizal	240 days	Site Development of the proposed 3-storey school building for Elementary and High School
2. 3-storey school building for Elementary Level	EPA-RAP-CF02	Blk. 1, F. Rodriguez Extn., Villa Ana Maria Subd. Brgy. San Jose Rodriguez, Rizal	360 days	Construction of a 3-storey school building for Elementary level
3. 3-storey school building for High School Level	EPA-RAP-CF03	Blk. 1, F. Rodriguez Extn., Villa Ana Maria Subd. Brgy. San Jose Rodriguez, Rizal	360 days	Construction of a 3-storey school building for High School level

Interested contractors will be required to submit their accomplished qualification documents and bid proposals at the same time in two (2) separate sealed envelopes. The envelope containing the bid will be kept in a sealed box, which will not be opened until after the completion of the qualification evaluation, and the list of qualified contractors has been finalized. Only the bids of the qualified contractors will be opened on the date of the bid opening. The bids of qualified contractors will be returned unopened.

Interested contractors may obtain further information and secure the qualification and bid documents at the following address:

Municipal Planning and Development Office
Municipality of Rodriguez, Province of Rizal
Rodriguez Municipal Building, J.P. Rizal Avenue, Rodriguez, Rizal
Telephone Nos. (02) 941-1338 / (02) 941-1295

A complete set of qualification and bid documents may be secured by interested contractors from the above address starting on **August 22, 2003**, upon submission of a letter of intent and proof of payment (receipt) from the Municipality of Rodriguez of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00) per contract package. Interested contractors are requested to pay at the Office of the Municipal Treasurer, Ground Floor, Municipal Building, J.P. Rizal Avenue, Rodriguez, Rizal.

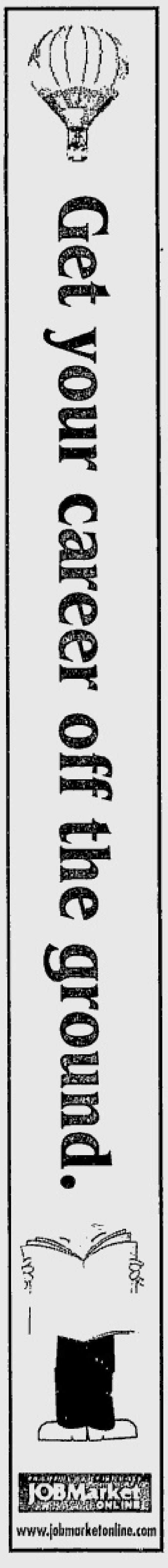
Site inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on **August 29, 2003**, 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room of the Mayor's Office of the above-mentioned address. The accomplished qualification documents and the bid in two (2) separate envelopes must be submitted to the Municipal Planning and Development Office before 1200 hours on October 6, 2003. The date of bid opening will be announced later.

The contractors shall submit together with the qualification documents a notarized sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet stated contracts with the corresponding contract amount.

All particulars relative to Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the ADB Procurement Guidelines and other pertinent laws and regulations. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. PEDRO S. CUERPO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Aug. 15 & 22, 2003)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY
4th Floor, Building B, NIA Complex, EDSA, Quezon City
TEL. NOS.: 922-33-71; 926-58-77; 922-33-68; 929-60-71 loc. 123
Telefax: 922-33-64; 922-33-55
e-mail address: fpa_77@yahoo.com
website: www.fadinap.org/philippines
P.O. Box 2582, Q.C.

FPA Board Resolution No. 03
Series of 2002

WHEREAS, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) is a regulatory agency created by Presidential Decree (PD) 1144, an agency attached to the Department of Agriculture.

WHEREAS, the FPA is the regulatory agency that controls and monitors the production, formulation, importation and distribution of fertilizer and pesticide products. Likewise, it also registers the products and licenses the handlers of these inputs.

WHEREAS, ammonium nitrate in solid form is one of the fertilizer products registered by the FPA as flower inducers for mango, tobacco and other agriculture use.

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 60, series of 1967, as amended by Executive Order No. 522, Series of 1992, prescribed the rules and regulations for the control and supervision of the importation, sale and possession of chemicals used as ingredients in the manufacture of explosives and other purposes.

WHEREAS, based on the findings of the Philippine National Police (PNP), there are criminal elements that use ammonium nitrate in solid form as a raw material in the preparation and formulation of homemade bombs and explosives. The PNP Firearms and Explosives Division listed ammonium nitrate in solid form as one of its regulated chemicals.

WHEREAS, aside from ammonium nitrate in solid form, there are alternative fertilizer products that can be used as flower inducer such as potassium nitrate, calcium nitrate and sodium nitrate. At present, there are only two (2) importers of ammonium nitrate in solid form with insignificant volume of importation as compared to potassium nitrate.

WHEREAS, in consultation with the nitrate importers, the FPA Management appraised them of the rampant misuse of ammonium nitrate in solid form as a raw material for the preparation and formulation of homemade bombs and explosives and the possibility of banning the same.

WHEREAS, the nitrate importers unanimously approved and supported the proposal of the FPA Management to ban the importation of ammonium nitrate in solid form and the cancellation of its registration.

NOW, THEREFORE, upon motion duly seconded, the Board resolved to approve the banning of the importation of ammonium nitrate in solid form and the cancellation of its registration for agricultural use.

This resolution shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in one (1) newspaper of general circulation. The banning of the importation of ammonium nitrate in solid form shall take effect immediately upon approval of this resolution. The distributors and dealers of ammonium nitrate in solid form are given a period of six (6) months from the publication of the notice to phase out their stocks. Thereafter, the ramaining stocks shall be confiscated.

Done this 22nd of November 2002.

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary of Agriculture and
Chairman, FPA Board

BLO UMPAR ADIONG
Director
Bureau of Plant Industry

LETICIA BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ
Director
Bureau of Food and Drugs

PORFIRIO B. VILLENA, JR.
Director
Department of Finance

ANDRES L. REBUELTA
For and in the absence of the
Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

REMEDIOS D. NISCE
For and in the absence of the
President, Phil. National Bank

ABrabante
ANGELITA T. BRABANTE
For and in the absence of the
Director, Environmental Management
Bureau

(PDI--Aug. 15, 2003)

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GOLDJUNCTION CORPORATION
BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS

NOTICE OF MEETING

To: All members of the Board.

The corporate meeting will be held at the principle office at - #12 Robina St., Brgy. Bungad, San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon on September 06, 2003.

AGENDA

1. Quorum
2. Organizational and administrative expenses
3. Payment of contributions
4. Project proposal
5. Other matters

In Quezon City, July 30, 2003.

(Sgd.) **ROSARITO F. PIZARRO**
O I C Corporate Secretary
GOLDJUNCTION CORPORATION

Republic of the Philippines
City of Sorsogon
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

WANTED RURAL HEALTH PHYSICIAN

The City Government of Sorsogon is in need of a

Rural Health Physician

for the Sorsogon City Amberg Hospital.

COMPENSATION PACKAGE

- **Basic Salary - (Php 18,000 per month)**
- **Free Board and Lodging**
- **Renewal of Contract every six (6) months**

Interested applicants are required to fax/send their Personal Data Sheet (CSC Revised Form 212), Resumé or Curriculum Vitaé with cover letter and pertinent documents to:

Mayor Sally A. Lee
c/o Ms. Asia Olbes
Office of the City Mayor
2/F Shopping Center Sorsogon
Fax No. **(056) 211-7950**

*For details call: **(056) 211-1314 Dr. Lee/ (056) 211-4669 Dr. Garcia***
Note: Please confirm your desire within fifteen (15) days upon publication.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on August 27, 2003, 2:00 p.m., at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION		MINIMUM BID (Excl. of VAT)
REAL ESTATE				
MANILA				
CWB-14	No. 280 A. Bonifacio Ave. cor. A. Flores St., Jesus de la Pena, Marikina City	199 m² commercial/residential lot (TCT No. 428042) w/ bldg. & imprvts.	P	4,113,300.00
BATAAN				
	Sta. Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis, Camaya, Mariveles	Residential lots with bldgs. & impvts.:		

CODE	Lot	Blk	AREA (m²)	TCT No.		MINIMUM BID
AMD-ED -42a	15	20	100	T-229481	P	300,900.00
-42b	10	9	50	T-229482	P	175,600.00
-42c	6	9	50	T-229483	P	197,500.00
-42d	5	9	50	T-229484	P	197,500.00
-42e	3	9	50	T-229485	P	157,800.00
-42f	45	8	50	T-229490	P	252,100.00
-42g	7	20	50	T-229491	P	195,300.00
-42h	49	8	50	T-229493	P	149,500.00
-42i	10	20	50	T-229494	P	175,600.00
-42j	15	32	50	T-229495	P	225,000.00
-42k	40	32	50	T-229496	P	240,400.00
-42l	18	20	50	T-229497	P	295,800.00
-42m	22	20	50	T-229498	P	139,500.00
-42n	6	8	50	T-229499	P	149,500.00
-42o	8	9	50	T-229500	P	197,500.00
-42p	7	9	50	T-229501	P	211,400.00
-42q	4	9	50	T-229502	P	149,500.00
-42r	7 & 10	32	100	T-229503 & 229504	P	343,000.00
-42s	39,35 & 38	31	150	T-229505, 229506 & 229507	P	416,600.00

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION		MINIMUM BID (Excl. of VAT)
BATANGAS				
LIP-3 LAO-04	Bo. Talaibon, Ibaan	5,000 m² agro-industrial lot (TCT No. T-111244) w/ bldgs. & imprvts.	P	12,229,700.00
LIP-3 LAO-05	Bo. Munting Tubig, Ibaan	2 parcels of agro-industrial lots (TCT Nos. T-111242 & T-111243) total area of 19,238 m² w/ bldgs. & imprvts.	P	6,179,900.00
BULACAN				
AMD-ED-43	Bgy. Matang Tubig, Baliuag	3 parcels of lots (TCT Nos. T-162317, T-162318 & T-162319) total area of 21,533 m² w/ bldg. & imprvts.	P	16,218,600.00
AMD-ML-44	Along G.L. Jaena St., Cityland Green Breeze Village I, Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria	200 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-295185)	P	180,000.00
CAVITE				
AMD-ML-45	Bo. Iruhin, Tagaytay City	1,500 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No.T-36905)	P	4,230,640.00
DAS-002	Poblacion, Rosario	2 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. T-1024912 & T-1024913) total area of 442 m² w/ bldgs. & imprvts.	P	3,143,900.00
DAS-003	Bo. San Juan, Gen. Trias	3 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. T-1024914, T-1024915 & T-1024916) total area of 654 m² w/ bldgs. and imprvts.	P	2,425,300.00
	Metrogate Subd., Bgy. Langcaan, Dasmarinas	5 parcels of vacant residential lots:		

CODE	AREA (m²)	TCT No.		MINIMUM BID
AMD-ML -46a	120	T-908735	P	420,000.00
-46b	120	T-908736	P	420,000.00
-46c	120	T-908737	P	420,000.00
-46d	120	T-908738	P	420,000.00
-46e	120	T-908739	P	420,000.00

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION		MINIMUM BID (Excl. of VAT)
LAGUNA				
AMD-ML-47	Along Bonifacio St., Bgy. Sto. Nino, Poblacion, Lumban	97 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-200189) w/ 4-storey bldg.	P	2,007,200.00
QUEZON				
	Bo. Cabuguang, Tagkawayan	Vacant lots:		
AMD-ML -48a		203,088 m² lot (TCT No. T-367909)	P	3,884,075.00
-48b		205,758 m² lot (TCT No. T-367910)	P	3,497,920.00
RIZAL				
AMD-ML-49	Bgy. Quisao, Pililia	2 parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. M-100249 & M-100250) total area of 28,720 m² w/ bldg. & imprvts.	P	4,230,900.00
AMD-JB-50	35 Sto. Nino St., Ma. Corazon Subd., Cupang, Antipolo	2 parcels of industrial-residential lots (TCT Nos. 284045 & 284046) total area of 520 m² with bldgs. & imprvts.	P	2,547,000.00
AMD-ML-51	Victoria Valley Subd., Bgy. De la Paz (Mayamot), Antipolo	1,273 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 202929)	P	2,391,750.00
AMD-ML-52	No. 3 Ursula St., Milagros Subd., Bo. Dalig, Antipolo	302 m² residential lot (TCT No. 324296) w/ bldg. & imprvts.	P	699,720.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)				
AMD-JB-53	TLRC Reproductive Cmpd., Bgy. Pandacaqui, Mexico, Pampanga	Various abaca rope-making machinery and equipment	P	8,500.00 to 2,611,300.00
AMD-ML-54	La Campana Cmpd., EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	Various machinery and equipment for steel manufacturing	P	800.00 to 838,800.00
AMD-ML-55	No. 100 Industry Rd.II cor. Reparo Rd., Araneta University Village, Potrero, Malabon City	Various lathe machines and equipment for steel fabrication	P	25,500.00 to 425,000.00
AMD-ML-56	DBP Depot, Doña Severina Subd., Paranaque City	5 units machinery and equipment for bolts & nuts fabrication	P	6,400.00 to 311,760.00
AMD-ML-57	Serg's Products Cmpd., Ortigas Ave., Cainta, Rizal	Various scrap materials	P	31,560.00 to 179,200.00
AMD-ED-58	Along National Road, San Rafael, Sto.Tomas, Batangas	Various fruit juice processing equipment	P	10,720.00 to 78,880.00
	La Campana Cmpd., EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City.	2 units public utility jeepneys, Belando, 19-seater:		
AMD-ML -59a		Plate No. NYA-731	P	30,000.00
-59b		Plate No. NYA-691	P	8,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2218/2252/3404 for Code starting with AMD;
926-1686 or 818-9511 loc. 1411 for CWB;
(043)757-2465 or 818-9511 loc. 1429 for LIP; and
(046)416-1390 or 818-9511 loc. 1427 for DAS

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI--Aug. 15 & 16, 2003)

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Dole prexy, AIM vice chair in Metrobank board

DOLE Asia president Paul Edmund S. Cuyegkeng and Asian Institute of Management co-vice chair and trustee Felipe B. Alfonso were elected to Metrobank's board of directors during the bank's annual stockholders' meeting recently.

CUYEGKENG

ALFONSO

Cuyegkeng, who is also president of Dole Japan Ltd, sits at the helm of Dole Asia, the top produce company in Asia and the only one that runs a fully integrated operation which includes growing, sourcing, manufacturing and packaging facilities as well as marketing and sales of fresh fruits and vegetables and packaged foods. It has direct distribution in Japan, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. Its markets include China, Korea, New Zealand, Australia, the Middle East, North America, and Europe. Concurrently, Cuyegkeng chairs the board of Dole Philippines Inc and Quantum Foods Inc.

Prior to his election, he served as member of Metrobank's advisory board for three years. He holds a Master's Degree from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering, magna cum laude, from De La Salle College, Manila.

Lawyer Felipe Alfonso is a luminary in the field of management, having held key positions in various industries. Presently, he is co-vice chair of the board of trustees of the AIM and executive director of the Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. AIM Center for Corporate Responsibility. Prior to his present posts, he also served as president of AIM from June 1990 to 1999 and chair of the board of trustees of the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) from 1994 to 2001.

Before his election to the Metrobank board, he sat in the board of the bank's investment arm First Metro Investment Corp.

Alfonso's expertise is sought by many and he has thus significantly shared his knowledge and experience by serving as director, adviser, trustee, or member to numerous and diverse companies such as Bacnotan Consolidated Industries, Coca-Cola Foundation Inc, Phinma Inc, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, East-West Center in Hawaii, the Philippine Deposit and Insurance Company, the Management Association of the Philippines, and STI-Information and Communications Technology Academy (i-Academy).

In 1997, Alfonso was given the AsPac HRD Award for Individual Achievement in the field of human resources and training by the Asian Regional and Training Organization (Artdo) for his "major and continuing contribution to the development of thousands of managers and executives in the Asia Pacific region."

EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM
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INQUIRER DONATES COMPUTERS

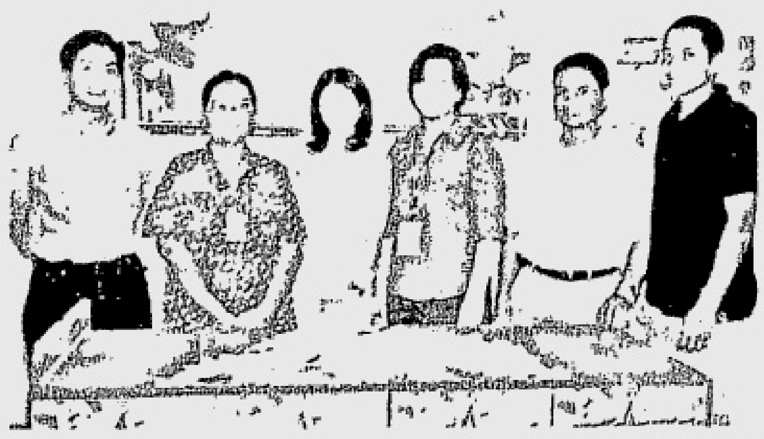
Navotas Elementary School Principal Leonor O. Flores (standing 6th from left), together with the rest of her faculty, proudly display the three sets of PCs donated by the Inquirer for the students of Navotas, Talim in Cardona, Rizal to use in their hands-on IT training in their classrooms. Shown with Flores are, from left, Florencia C. Rivera, Nilda T. Celestra, Isabel V. Reyes, Luzviminda O. Mate, Annie Badua, Loreta Reyes, Rogelio M. Huelva, Analyn F. Antonil, Maria SC Medina, Anna Liza F. Zuela, Nenita C. Rivera, and Matilde Huelva.

MCDONALD'S VIP NIGHT

Respected business personalities graced the McDonald's VIP Night July 21 at the just-opened McDonald's Forbes Town Center in Bonifacio Global City. Photo below shows, from left, Jose Pastor Puno and Antonio N. Cotoco, SVP and EVP, respectively, of Equitable PCIBank, Oscar Reyes, Andrew Tan, Carlos Rufino, Gigi Zulueta and Ric Pascua. Top photo shows, from left, Rudy Robles, Charlie Uy, Kenneth Yang, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, Andrew Tan, Kay Tinga, Kathy Tan, and Tinga's two children. McDonald's Forbes Town Center was opened to the public July 22.

CAFÉ LUPE DRAWS FIRST WINNERS IN PROMO

The Café Lupe Family Restaurant recently held its Guadalupe Buen Viaje first raffle draw, wherein winners received 100 Holy Rosaries and 100 authenticated posters of Our Lady of Guadalupe signed by the Bishop of Mexico. The grand prize will be a trip for two to Mexico. Other prizes include trips for two to Bacolod and Cebu, gift checks and a date for two at Café Lupe. The draw dates are on Aug. 15, Sept. 20, Nov. 15 and Dec. 20. To join, just dine at Café Lupe Family Restaurant. For a cumulative purchase of food and drinks worth P1,000, customers are entitled to one raffle ticket. Shown at the first raffle draw are (from left), Billy Rockwell of Charisms Inc., ad and promo agency of Café Lupe, Troy Alcala, sales professional of McGraphics Carranz, Third Secretary and Commercial and Cultural Attache Jorge Salcido of the Embassy of Mexico, and Mel Gonzaga, HR manager of Café Lupe. For bookings and reservations, call 899-2145 or 896-3166.



TOTALGAZ PROMO DRAW

Total (Philippines) Corp's liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) unit Totalgaz recently held the first raffle draw of its Easy Cash sa Totalgaz promo. Shown are (from left) Raymond Villaraza, marketing representative, Northeast Luzon Superkalan Gaz Corp, Carmelita Pascual of EL Pascual Trading Inc, authorized Totalgaz dealer in Batangas, Maricel Ang, Total's advertising and promotions officer, Rowena San Jose, DTI representative, Nixon Buena of ABLP Gas Center, authorized Totalgaz dealer in Taguig, and Andrei Bagatsing, Superkalan Gaz marketing representative for Bicol. The promo gives away cash prizes to winners. Succeeding raffle draws will be on Aug. 15 and Oct. 10. Promo runs until Oct. 8.

Bits Clips

PJS 35th year

JCI SEN. Sergio O. Valencia, PJS national president and JCI Sen. Gino A. Baltao, overall chair of the PJS 35th anniversary program, invite all JCI senators, jaycees, their families and friends to come and celebrate the Philippine Jaycee Senate's 35th Anniversary with a dinner-dance, which starts with a thanksgiving mass at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 16 at the Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan. All-night dancing will feature Ramon "RJ" Jacinto and the Riots. Raffle prizes await those who attend. Proceeds of the affair are earmarked for the ongoing programs and projects of the organization. Tickets are available at the PJS secretariat, with telephone numbers 373-5819, or can be bought at the door.

PR vs marketing

CORPORATE and marketing communication experts tackles today, at the Dasmarinas Room, Hotel InterContinental Manila, the long-running debate on the overlapping functions of public relations and marketing and the value of their roles to the organization. The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) said resource speakers from corporate and marketing fields, the academe and business community are scheduled to address the seminar-workshop "Achieving Business Objectives Through Integrated Communication." Speakers include PRSP president Winston Marbella, APR, Bong Osorio, Leonides Valencia, Luis J. Morales, and Bernard Bagaman. For more information, call the PRSP secretariat at 636-3242 or 636-3243.

Oakley Challenge

COMBINE physical and mental toughness with camaraderie and teamwork, add a little glamour with the presence of athletic celebrities, and you get The Oakley Bionetwork Challenge, a special adventure race to be held at historic Corregidor Island. On Sept. 5, the island will be awakened by the frenzy of teams digging deep into their reserves of mental and physical strength as they struggle through five breathtaking but exhausting legs. The "chosen few" participants will be paired off with the likes of Diether Ocampo, Victor Neri, Jake Roxas, Tricia Chiongbian, Akiko Thomson, Brad Turvey and Gaby dela Merced. For any single purchase of any Oakley product, a customer is given the chance to qualify. Deadline for submission of all application forms is on Aug. 15. Participants will be announced on Aug. 20.

Patio Victoria, the wedding venue

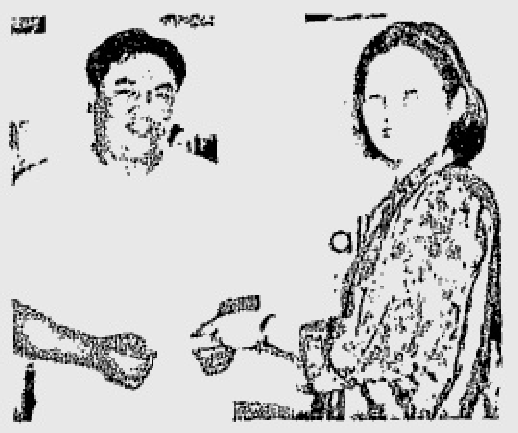
PATIO Victoria is the astonishing place for weddings, debuts and baptismal parties and other corporate function needs. Ongoing until September are special packages and discounts, which include free use of the venue, three-tiered fondant cake, wine for the ceremonial toast, flowers for the guest and presidential tables, and more discounts and on-the-house amenities. Patio Victoria assures first-class catering services. For more details, call 526-1953, 527-8006, or 0917-7956726. E-mail inquiries@patiovictoria.com. Patio Victoria is located at 5435 Gen. Luna corner Victoria Streets, Intramuros, Manila.

Photo contest deadline

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts' (NCCA) deadline for submission of entries to the Heritage Photo Contest 2003 is on or before 4 p.m. today, Aug. 15 only. Entries should focus on the Philippines' rich cultural heritage. The contest is being undertaken in line with the Heritage Series 2003, which is aimed at raising public consciousness, love and respect for our rich cultural heritage as well as to raise material support for its protection. A cash prize of P20,000 awaits the first prize winner, P15,000 and P10,000 to the second and third prize winners. Entries must be submitted to the Heritage Month 2003 Photo Contest care of the NCCA, 633 Gen. Luna Stree, Intramuros, Manila. For details, call Michelle Gonzales or Evette Marie Banzon at 527-2192 local 501/502.

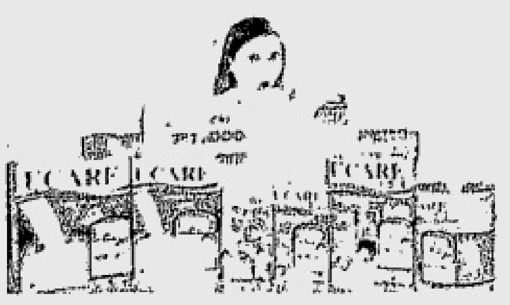
Nishiki unfolds

AUTHENTIC cuisine in an unrivaled setting is yours to experience as Edsa Shangri-La, Manila's new Japanese restaurant Nishiki unfolds today, Aug. 15. Nishiki means "beautiful patterns", "balance of beauty and glory," and "return in glory." Designed by Warner Wong Design+Architecture of Singapore, Nishiki's overall concept is inspired by the Japanese performing art form called Noh. With backdrops that allow sensual moods to unfold, the restaurant is a stage set for the ritual of authentic fine dining. Nishiki can accommodate up to 130 persons and is open for lunch from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 10 p.m. daily. Nishiki is located at the mezzanine of Edsa Shangri-La, Manila. For inquiries and reservations, call 634-7373 or 633-8888 extensions 2738/39.



HP AWARDS SURVEY WINNER

Diana de la Rosa, ISS business manager of HP Philippines, recently awarded Aldo Santos, technical service manager of Internet Security Systems, a Banyan Tree Bangkok package that includes a 3-day, 2-night stay in a Deluxe Suite plus 90-minute spa massage for two. Santos won the Phase 1 survey of the HP Server Brands Survey, which was conducted January to April. The Phase II survey is ongoing until end of August. Interested participants can log on to www.hp.com/apac/proliantsurvey3>.



BE AN INSTANT MILLIONAIRE WITH UCARE

Ucare Milk is giving away millions of pesos in its new promo Tseke Pares Panalo, Instant Milyonaryo! To join, just buy Ucare Powdered Milk Drink and Ucare 1-2-3 products bearing half of a check in front of the pack. Look for the other half of the check inside the Ucare milk packs, match them and win loads of cash. To claim your prize, simply call the New Zealand Milk promotions office at 682-2595 and 682-1801. Give your name, address, telephone number, and the serial number of the winning check for verification. A New Zealand representative will advise you on how you can claim your cash prize. The promo is ongoing until Oct. 31. Ucare Powdered Milk Drink has 25-plus nutrients for the brain, body and bones for children 4 to 12 years old. For children 1 to 3 years old, give them Ucare 1-2-3 with Growth Boosters for brain, body and resistance.

ProductFILES

1st Line Array System in RP

AT THE Telex Academy 2003 in Jakarta, Indonesia, EVI Distribution Philippines president Mariano Ang and sales manager Ricky Mabini were pleased to announce the arrival of the first-ever Line Array Speaker System and the Midas Heritage Mixing Console in the Philippines. This announcement coincided with a contract signing of EVI Philippines with three of the most innovative rental companies in the Philippines who have already ordered the first sets of the Line Array System. These companies are Hxpro Sounds and Lights, PMX Audio and First Harmonic Professionals. On hand to witness this momentous event were also some of the biggest authorities in the International Audio Industry such as Mathias von Heydekampf, president of Telex Communications Worldwide, regional sales director Simon Tay, Erick Lim, president of Telex Communications Singapore and David Cooper, sales manager of Midas International.

Designed to meet the challenges of difficult acoustical environments, the Line Array System and the Midas Heritage is a boon to those involved in the entertainment industry. Mabini says, "The arrival of the Line Array and the Midas Heritage will place rental companies on the map as far as concerts and big shows are concerned. Having the Line Array and the Midas Heritage means that concerts of international artists can be staged here, without them having to bring extra equipment from abroad as these sound systems have been used all over the world by only the biggest artists and the biggest musical events."

LINE Array available in September 2003

Ang adds, "Our role in distributing the Line Array System and the Midas Heritage 1000 shows the commitment of EVI in becoming the pioneer in the audio industry in the Philippines, showing that our country can continue to innovate and compete with big acts worldwide."

For more information, call 897-7644 or 897-7683.

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Rosa Lampinko Gonzalez

Peacefully joined our Creator on 13 August 2003 at the age of 79.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Saturday, 16 August 2003, 2:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Message of Thanks

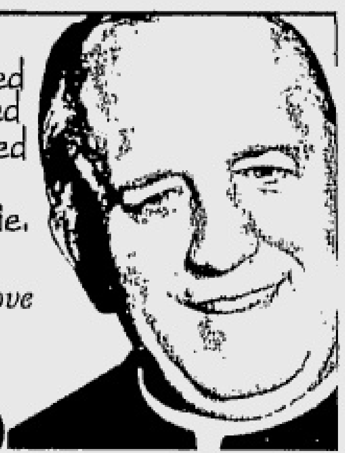
For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.

From the family of the late

COL. ARTEMIO QUINITINITA GUMTANG (Ret) JAGS

You live on -
in the minds that you inspired
in the lives that you improved
in the hearts that you touched
You live on -
and you shall never die.



Lovingly remembered in Love on his eight anniversary to eternal life, our dear

FR. CORNELIO LAGERWEY, MSC.

Born to Life on
May 5, 1925
Born to Eternal Life on
August 15, 1995
Feast of the
Assumption of Mary

Holy Masses shall be offered at various churches. We ask you to continue remembering him in your prayers in fulfillment of his dream, *Evangelization of Love* thru media.

Mngt. & Staff of
FCL ASIA, INC.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

BRO. LORENZO C. DE VELA, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Wednesday, 13 August 2003

Wake : San Jose Seminary Chapel,
Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C.
Concelebrated Mass every evening at 8:00 p.m.
Funeral Mass : at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, 16 August 2003
at San Jose Seminary.
Interment : Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C., immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

Sa pinakamamahal naming

Conrado "Rading" Palomique Tantengco

Disyembre 24, 1930 - Agosto 10, 2003

Ang iyong pagkawala ay aming iniluha,
Ngunit payapa ang aming isipang ikaw'y muling makita,
Pagdating ng Panginoong Hesukristo tayo ay magkasama.

Mahal na mahal na mahal kita,
Purificacion "Baby" Parenas Tantengco

Mahal na mahal ka namin, Daddy, Lolo,
Fredeswina at Romeo, Federico, Conrado Jr., Vivian, Conrado Manuel, Marcus Romeo, Pocholo Fetrinelli, Felix Antonio, Fredes Ingga at Colin Antonio.

Nakahimlay sa Faith Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Ang libing ay gaganapin sa Agosto 16, 2003, Sabado sa ganap ng 10:00 n.u. sa Himlayang Pilipino.

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
DANIEL T. PINPIN	Aug 16 2003	10:00 AM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Angono, Rizal	Funeraria Oro Angono Rizal
ANTONIO M. ROAN	Aug 19, 2003	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	Gondola St., San Francisco Village Vuzon, Taytay, Rizal

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Great Divide @ Food Odyssey
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Today, August 15, 2003 @ 6:30 PM

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2 FINDING NEMO	LXG	7 CINEMANILA	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 FINDING NEMO 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00 11:15	2 FINDING NEMO
3 MR. BONES	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LXG 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30 11:00	APO HIKING SOCIETY & HOTDOG -BACK2BACK Aug 28 · 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE IN-LAWS 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 11:00	3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 LXG	THE DEBUT		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 LXG 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 12:00	4 FINDING NEMO
	5 TOMB RAIDER II		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 BAD BOYS II 1:30 4:30 [illegible]	5 LXG
	6 FINDING NEMO			
	7 BAD BOYS II			

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1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 NAKED WEAPON
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 TOMB RADER-2
6 BULLET PROOF MONK
7 FINDING NEMO

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2 RESERVE

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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2 NOON AT NGAYON
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 FINDING NEMO
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
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2 BAD BOYS-2
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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3 SO CLOSE
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(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
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2 BABASAGIN KRISTAL
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4 FINDING NEMO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
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3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 NAKED WEAPON
5 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

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2 BIGAY HILIG
3 RESERVE

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2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 NAKED WEAPON

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2 MOTEL
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 BAD BOYS-2

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Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
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2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 FINDING NEMO
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 BAD BOYS-2

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 FINDING NEMO
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

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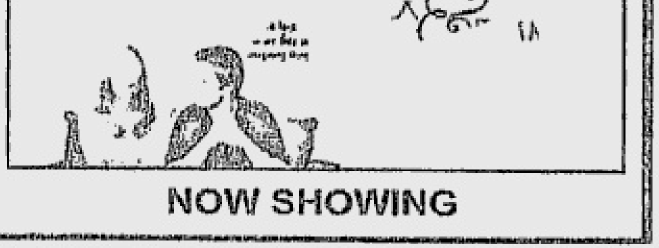

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3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 MOTEL
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CENTERPOINT
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1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 MY LITTLE EYE
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 MOTEL
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 NAKED WEAPON
7 FINDING NEMO
8 BULLETPROOF MONK
9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10 THE IN-LAWS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 MY LITTLE EYE
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 FINDING NEMO
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 BAD BOYS 2
7 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
9 MR. BONES
10 MOTEL
11 DARK WATER
12 NAKED WEAPON

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 MR. BONES
8 NAKED WEAPON
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 THE DEBUT
11 THE IN-LAWS
12 DARK WATER

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 BULLETPROOF MONK
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 FINDING NEMO
6 MR. BONES
7 DARK WATER
8 THE DEBUT
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 THE IN-LAWS
12 TUKAAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 THE DEBUT
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 FINDING NEMO
6 MR. BONES
7 BAD BOYS 2
8 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 MR. BONES
2 MY LITTLE EYE
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 MOTEL
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 BAD BOYS 2
9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10 THE DEBUT

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 FINDING NEMO
4 DARK WATER
5 WILD BUTTERFLY
6 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
2 RESERVED
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 RESERVED
8 DANCER IN THE DARK

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 FINDING NEMO
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 THE IN-LAWS
6 NOON AT NGAYON

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1 BAD BOYS 2
2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 FINDING NEMO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 FINDING NEMO
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 IMPOSTOR
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

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1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 FINDING NEMO
4 BAD BOYS 2

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2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

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11:10 FS/11:40 MF/2:15/4:50/7:25/
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3 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
4 THE IN-LAWS 11:45, 2:15, 4:45 7:15, 9:45
5 NOON AT NGAYON 11:20, 2:00, 4:40 7:20, 10:00
6 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40 7:20, 10:00
7 THE DEBUT 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
8 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
9 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, [illegible]30, 9:50
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3 THE DEBUT - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
4 THE IN-LAWS - 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 MR. BONES - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 NOON AT NGAYON - 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:40
7 LXG - 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00

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8 THE IN-LAWS

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2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 THE IN-LAWS
5 FINDING NEMO
6 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 MR. BONES
8 NOON AT NGAYON

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5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 THE GURU

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BUSINESS

Farmers seek WTO pullout due to 'unfair competition'

By Michelle V. Remo

A NETWORK of farmers' organizations have urged the government to pull out from the World Trade Organization on grounds that they were unable to cope with the unresolved cases of "unfair competition" in the multilateral trading system.

Task Force Food Sovereignty (TFFS), a network of farmers' organizations, said in a position paper that the government should use the coming Cancun round of WTO talks as a venue to oppose moves to further liberalize markets.

The 5th Ministerial Meeting of the WTO will be held in September in Cancun, Mexico.

In the paper, which was submitted Wednesday during the Department of Trade and Industry's consultation with civil society groups regarding the coming WTO round of negotiations, TFFS cited the ticklish issue of the granting of huge subsidies by developed countries to their agriculture sector and their alleged dumping practices.

"Government should consider pulling out of the WTO and reject similar agreements that have further stunted the mostly small producers of the country rather than boost genuine economic growth," TFFS said in its paper addressed to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

The group said the government should prioritize protecting the country's farmers as developed countries, especially the United States and the European Union, "distort" agricultural trade by granting massive subsidies to their agriculture sectors.

Under its Common Agricultural Policy, Europe grants $50 billion a year to its agriculture sector. For French farmers alone, the European Union gives $10 billion a year to maintain productivity. The United States likewise gives huge subsidies to its agriculture sector. For soy farmers alone, the United States grants subsidies equivalent to 20-25 percent of the crop's value.

Mirant invests ₱1B in power plant

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LAPAZ, ILOILO—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday led the ground-breaking rites here for Mirant Global Corp.'s P1-billion project to build an additional 40 megawatts of generating capacity for energy-deficient Panay Island.

Mirant Global is a joint venture between Mirant Philippines Corp. and Metrobank subsidiary Global Business Holdings Inc.

The project is an expansion of the 72-MW diesel-fired power plant that belonged to the Lopez-owned Panay Power Corp., which Mirant Global acquired for P2.32 billion last June 27.

Marce Fuller, president and CEO of United States-based Mirant Corp., said during the ceremony that the project was the firm's response to the government's call for private sector support to avert a possible power shortage in the Visayas.

"Mirant—together with Global Holdings—has decided to partner again with government as we did back in 1989 when we heeded the call for private sector support to put an end to the energy crisis," Fuller said.

Under build-operate-transfer contracts with the National Power Corp., Mirant operates the 1,200-MW Sual coal plant in Pangasinan and the 735-MW Pagbilao coal plant in Quezon.

The company also built the 210 -MW in Navotas I plant, 100-MW Navotas II plant and a 15-MW facility in Bulacan.

Mirant is likewise involved in the $710-million, 1,200-megawatt Ilijan power project in Batangas, the biggest of three power plants that use natural gas from the Malampaya production field.

Mirant officials said the additional 40 MW of capacity would be built within the site of the existing 72-MW Panay Power complex in this town.

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BUSINESS Friday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

TV screen on the wall, who's the fairest of the two?

GMA plays catch-up

By Abigail L. Ho

QUIOGUE

IT IS hard to compete with others, but harder still to compete with one's self.

This is precisely what GMA Marketing and Productions Inc. president and chief operating officer Manuel "Meckoy" Quiogue is learning.

When his stint with broadcasting giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. ended in January last year, the former advertising man came on board the GMA Network Inc. team to help mold its marketing group into something more characteristic of a leading television network.

Although ABS-CBN is still at the top of the ratings chart right now, Quiogue is slowly transforming the GMA marketing group into something that can close the gap and possibly allow the country's No. 2 network to overtake the Lopez-owned broadcasting giant in the future.

But, of course, this is easier said than done. He is, after all, the one who suggested the strategy that ABS-CBN is currently using to corner more advertisers.

During his stay at ABS-CBN where he was managing director of the UHF channel Studio 23 and head of ABS-CBN's sales and marketing group, Quiogue helped design the network's integrated marketing strategy that involved multi-platform selling and marketing.

This is an attractive proposal for advertisers as it allows them to advertise their groups across the different platforms under ABS-CBN, including radio, print and the Internet.

"It's a pity that the strategy I helped formulate is the very strategy that I have to fight now," he says.

Quiogue admits that meeting ABS-CBN head-on in the ratings and revenues game is no easy task, with the Lopez firm's vast array of platforms.

Striving to overtake a television station that has been in the No. 1 spot since 1987 is difficult, he knows. But he also knows that it is not impossible.

He reveals that motivating GMA's marketing people to contribute as much as they can to the network's quest for the the No. 1 spot in Philippine television is key to becoming number one.

GMA/ B2-2

Working to stay on top

By Abigail L. Ho

COMPETITION is now stiffer than ever between the two largest broadcasters in the country.

And although the No. 2 station has gained some ground, the No. 1 is confident it will keep its top post.

When ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. chair and CEO Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III took over the helm in 1997, he saw the opportunity to grow the network while maintaining its No. 1 position.

The younger Lopez adopted a diversification strategy.

The lure of the international market was too much for ABS-CBN to ignore, prompting it to plunge into the North American market in the early '90s.

ABS-CBN International, which started in 1992, was the fulfillment of the vision of the older Lopez, Eugenio Lopez Jr. His son exerted a lot of effort and a huge sum of cash to turn this vision into reality with The Filipino Channel (TFC) in 1994, the first of its kind from a local network.

"The idea of going international became to them an excuse to spend money from their IPO and their other funds at that time, but it was also a fulfillment of the old Mr. Lopez's vision," a person familiar with the matter said.

But things were not quite good at the start of ABS-CBN's expansion into the international arena. North America had around 50 states so negotiations with at least 50 cable operators for carriage of TFC had to be conducted.

Also, marketing efforts for the new cable channel had to be launched in all these states. That entailed big money, all in greenbacks.

"ABS-CBN International suffered heavy losses over a long period of time because it went into the international market investing heavily on infrastructure. They had losses for close to 10 years before they actually began earning," another source related.

The company had a lot of difficulty securing carriage from US cable operators. The time they spent negotiating plus the efforts they placed on marketing and development of programs translated into huge expenses with no earnings.

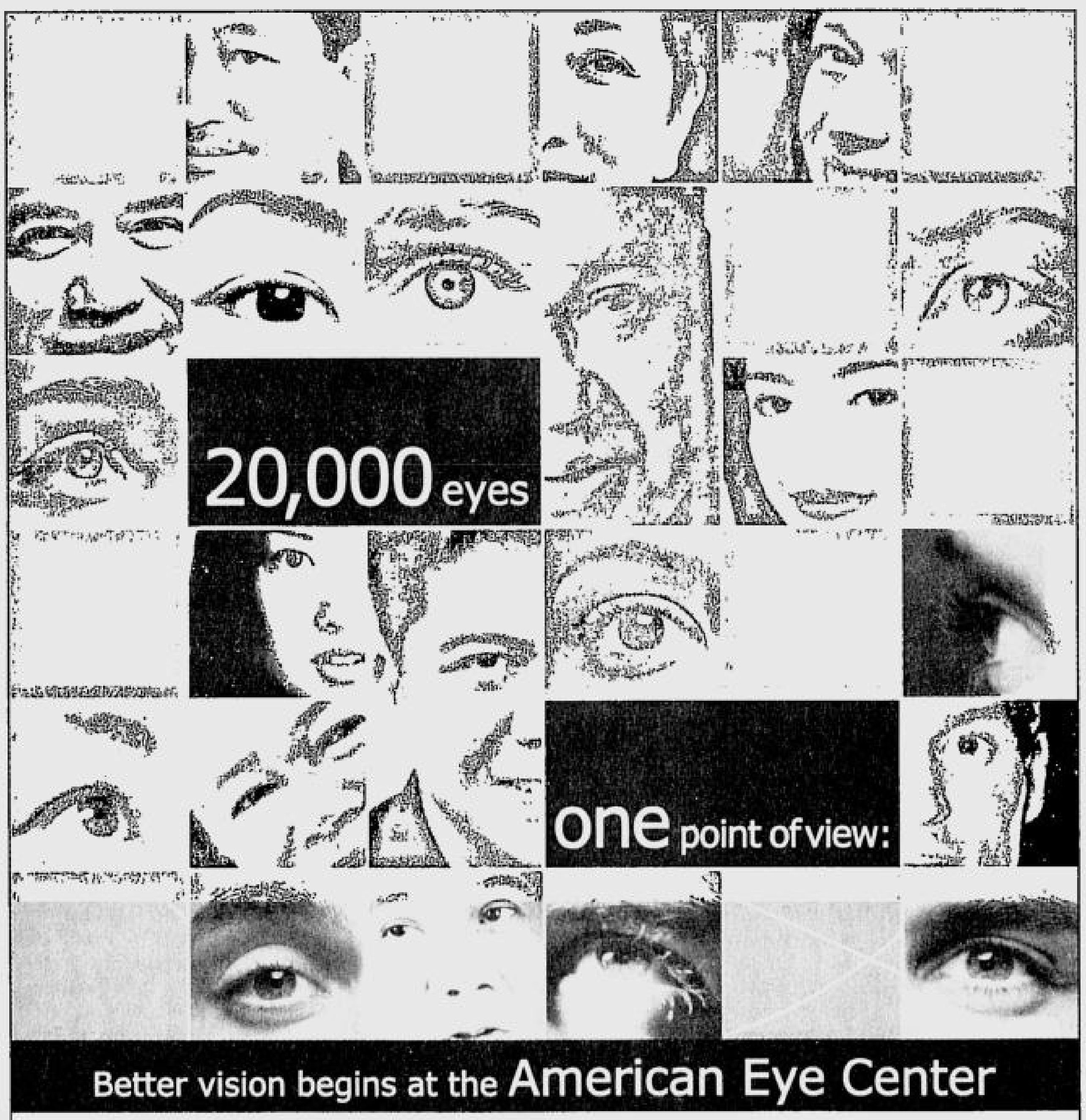
Learning along the way, ABS-CBN International in 1995 decided to launch its own direct-to-home television service carrying TFC. This then eliminated the need to negotiate with US cable operators as well as made the company's offering more attractive to subscribers.

"They just started earning in 1998 or 1999. Subscriber numbers didn't really pick up that fast (after the launch of their DTH service)," a source said. "They also had some problems with the rates at some point as their initial offer of $1,000 for the hardware needed plus a year's subscription was considered quite steep by their target market."

When the firm was finally able to build critical mass in the North Amer-

WORKING/ B2-2

LOPEZ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VAT on brokers

By Clarizza L. Doloroso
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

STARTING Jan. 1 this year, stock, real estate, commercial, customs and immigration brokers (referred to as "brokers" in this article) once again became subject to the 10-percent value-added tax (VAT).

When EO No. 273 instituted the VAT system in 1988, the sale of services by brokers was covered by the VAT. However, Congress suspended the application of VAT on the services of brokers from Jan. 1, 2000 to Dec. 31, 2002 during which time, brokers were made liable to the 7-percent broker's tax in lieu of the VAT as provided under RA Nos. 8761 and 9010.

Since Congress did not pass any law extending the suspension of the imposition of VAT on brokers' services, these have again become subject to the 10-percent VAT.

VAT implementation

Revenue Memorandum Circular No. (RMC) 23-2003 dated March 31, 2003 clarifies certain issues on the imposition of VAT on brokers. It provides general information on, among others, the application of VAT on brokers, guidelines in the registration of brokers as VAT, non-VAT, or VAT-exempt taxpayers and the tax base and computation of the VAT liability of brokers.

Not all brokers are subject to VAT so not all brokers are required to register as VAT taxpayers.

Only brokers with gross receipts of more than P550,000 in the preceding year (existing taxpayers) or those with expected gross receipts of more than P550,000 for any 12-month period (in case of new taxpayers) are required to register as VAT-taxpayers.

Brokers with gross receipts for the preceding year (existing taxpayers) or those with expected gross receipts for any 12-month period (in case of new taxpayers) exceeding P100,000 but not exceeding P550,000 are required to register as non-VAT taxpayers subject to the 3-percent percentage tax on gross receipts.

However, these brokers may opt to register as VAT taxpayers. In which case, they will be subject to 10-percent VAT even if their gross receipts do not breach P550,000.

Brokers with gross receipts of less than P100,000 from all lines of taxable business or practice of profession during any 12-month period are exempt from VAT payment of VAT or the percentage tax. However, they are still required to register as VAT-exempt taxpayers .

VAT base

The 10-percent VAT is imposed on gross receipts from the sale or exchange of services. The term "gross receipts" means total amount of money or its equivalent representing the contract price, compensation, service fee, rental or royalty.

It includes the amounts charged for materials supplied with the services and deposits and advance payments actually or constructively received during the taxable period/quarter for the services performed or to be performed for another person, excluding VAT.

Gross receipts of brokers normally consist of commission income or service fee received in exchange for the services rendered. The tax base of VAT is the amount actually or constructively received. Thus, deposits or advance payments for the broker's commission or service fee form part of their gross receipts in the period they are received.

Advance payments for transportation and other expenses incurred by the broker, even if reimbursed by the client, are also part of the broker's gross receipts subject to the 10-percent VAT.

Exclusions from VAT base

Not all amounts received by brokers are subject to VAT.

RMC 23-2003 particularly excludes from the gross receipts of customs brokers, advance payments made by such brokers for expenses such as arrastre, wharfage, form or waybills, magna scale, documentation, trucking and handling charges.

Advanced payments made by customs brokers for such expenses will not form part of the customs broker's gross receipts if: (1) the payments are invoiced directly in the names of the customs broker's clients by the person performing such service; and (2) the reimbursement to the customs broker is not covered by the customs broker's VAT invoice/official receipt.

If the conditions are met, the advanced payments made by customs brokers for the said charges and reimbursed by their clients will not be subject to the 10-percent VAT.

In addition, all amounts received by brokers on account of employer-employee relationship are not subject to VAT. If the services of brokers are rendered on an in-house basis, under an employer-employee relationship, all remunerations received, such as salaries, wages, emoluments, honoraria or fees are considered compensation income exempt from VAT under Section 109(o) of the Tax Code.

Computation of VAT

The amount of VAT payable by brokers shall be the excess of the output tax (or VAT on sales) over the allowable input tax (or VAT on purchase of goods and services).

The output tax on the sale of services is computed at the rate of 10 percent of the taxable gross receipts (exclusive of VAT) of the broker for a given taxable period or by the factor 1/11 of the total invoice amount (i.e., gross receipts plus output VAT).

The allowable input tax consists of several items: (1) carry-over of excess input tax from preceding periods; (2) input taxes generated from purchases during the current period; (3) advance VAT payments; and (4)creditable VAT withheld by authorized VAT withholding agents.

Excess input taxes carried over from preceding periods represent the excess of the allowable input tax over the output tax during the period. On the other hand, input taxes generated during the current period represent the VAT component of the amounts paid to VAT-taxpayers, as evidenced by VAT-registered invoices/official receipts.

In the event that the input taxes exceed the output taxes, then there will be no VAT payable for that particular period. Instead, the excess input taxes shall be carried forward to the next taxable period and shall be considered as allowable input tax credits for that particular period.

Compliance requirements

Revenue Regulations No. 11-2003 required all brokers who became subject to VAT effective Jan. 1, 2003 to update their registration records with the BIR not later than March 19, 2003. After registration, brokers are required to comply with the following requirements:

a. Pay the P500 annual registration fee for every place of business or establishment or facility that generates sales;

b. Register with the BIR their books of accounts;

c. Register with the BIR VAT sales invoices and VAT official receipts for use in transactions subject to VAT in the case of brokers registered as VAT-taxpayers. Brokers who registered as non-VAT taxpayers must register with the BIR non-VAT sales invoices and non-VAT official receipts for use in transactions not subject to VAT.

It must be kept in mind that the issuance of a VAT sales invoice or a VAT official receipt renders the transaction subject to the 10-percent VAT, even if the transaction would have otherwise not been subject to VAT.

d. File monthly VAT declarations and quarterly VAT returns or monthly percentage tax return, as the case may be.

Brokers who registered as VAT taxpayers must file monthly VAT declarations on or before the 20th day following the end of the taxable month (using BIR Form No. 2550M) and quarterly VAT returns on or before the 25th day following the end of the taxable quarter (using BIR Form No. 2550Q).

The VAT declarations and VAT returns must reflect the following information: (a) the gross receipts and output tax (VAT on sales), (b) purchase of goods and services made in the ordinary course of trade or business/exercise of profession and input tax (VAT on purchases), (c) other allowable tax credits, (d) VAT withheld by payors and (e) VAT payable or excess input VAT, whichever is applicable.

VAT declarations and quarterly VAT returns must be filed with the accredited agent banks (AABs) of the BIR or revenue collection officers (RCOs) of the BIR (in areas without AABs) for returns with payment, or with the RDO/LTDO having jurisdiction over the taxpayer for returns without payment.

Brokers who registered as non-VAT taxpayers, on the other hand, are required to file the monthly percentage tax return on or before the 20th day following the end of the taxable month using BIR form No. 2551M.

Monthly percentage tax returns must reflect the following information: (a) the gross receipts, (b) other allowable tax credits, tax withheld by payors and (c) tax payable or refundable.

Monthly percentage tax returns must be filed with AABs or RCOs of the BIR (in areas without AABs) for returns with payment, or with the RDO/LTDO having jurisdiction over the taxpayer for returns without payment.

Brokers who are e-filers, i.e., those enrolled in the electronic filing and payment system, should however take into account the deadlines set for the filing of returns set in various regulations, particularly Revenue Regulations No. 26-02 dated Dec. 5, 2002.

Working to stay on top

From page B2-1

ican market, it had already set up operations in Japan, Australia and the Middle East as well.

Meanwhile, in the local market, ABS-CBN took the route of soap operas.

"We're really a content company. That's the main difference between ABS-CBN and GMA (Network Inc.). We produce our own stars and we have a lot of other platforms as well," he explains.

Aside from the country's top television station, ABS-CBN is also into radio stations, movie production, Internet services, magazines, sound recording, post-production, international cable and satellite distribution, licensing and merchandising.

Lopez says the show biz orientation of the network helps ABS-CBN come up with good homegrown movies and television shows, while giving television viewers the chance to see what other countries have to offer.

"Although it's cheaper to bring in a foreign soap than to produce our own, we still prefer to do our own shows. We want to sell our programs abroad. (Just bringing in foreign programming) is also not good for the morale of the stars," he states.

The network's soap opera production peaked in the late '90s, when production budgets and elaborate plot lines soared to heights almost comparable with those of big-budget films that Lopez-owned Star Cinema produced.

Because of the success of these shows, ABS-CBN decided to export these shows to other countries, much like what the Mexicans, Taiwanese and Koreans did with their own soaps.

The network also plans to "can" some of its soaps to allow it to have more cost-efficient operations.

Meteor Garden phenomenon

But, of course, some new foreign programming cannot just be ignored, particularly one that has taken the nation by storm.

Mexican telenovelas first tickled our fancy almost a decade ago with Thalia's "Marimar." Television networks, ABS-CBN included, were quick to jump into the Mexican soap bandwagon.

Now, Asian soaps are the ones taking the Pinoy televiewers' fancy. ABS-CBN's Taiwanese soap "Meteor Garden" has gotten some sort of a cult following among Filipinos of all ages, from all walks of life.

"We knew it would click, but we didn't know it would be this big a hit," Lopez says.

"Meteor Garden" had been among the overall top 15 shows in Metro Manila since its launch just last May. Its simple plot and charming stars catapulted it to the status it currently holds in the Pinoy soap lovers' hearts.

Lopez admits that the show is now raking in millions in advertising revenue for ABS-CBN, but these earnings have not prompted the network to put the show in a prime time slot.

"Meteor Garden" airs Monday to Saturday at 5:30 p.m., with its Rewind versions airing at 11:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Despite its popularity, ABS-CBN chooses not to put the show on prime time as this time block is reserved for homegrown telenovelas.

"We'll never put chinovelas on prime time. It's a strategic move on our part," Lopez says.

Besides, ABS-CBN was more focused on "localizing" and giving more attention to local programs.

Lopez reveals that ABS-CBN is currently formulating a soap opera similar to "Meteor Garden" in simplicity and brevity.

Studio 23

ABS-CBN is also strengthening its UHF channel, Studio 23, by broadening its niche market to include the broad C income bracket.

Studio 23 was designed for the youth market in the A and B income brackets. But to help expand its reach, Lopez said more local programs would be placed on Studio 23's program lineup, possibly including homegrown soaps.

Going forward

Lopez says the network will continue innovating, based on what viewers want and what management feels will give the viewers what they want.

It also helps that ABS-CBN has a strong set of core officers, Lopez himself included.

To ensure continuity, the company has a successor planning program that trains potential key officials and prepares them to take important positions in the company in the future.

"We develop our own people to make them more well-rounded," Lopez says of the successor planning program.

But at 51, Lopez says he is not yet grooming his possible successor as he still has a lot of years ahead of him in the business.

Who knows? Ten years down the road and he could still be steering the country's No. 1 network into more successes.

The Lopez-owned network, then under the leadership of the late Eugenio Lopez Jr., had its first taste of the No. 1 spot in 1953, the year it was conceived.

GMA plays catch-up

From page B2-1

"When our sales people saw that we could actually do it, that we actually had a shot at winning, they became more motivated. They became more gung-ho. Their morale went up seeing that we had a shot at overtaking the competition," he says.

Quiogue adds that allowing GMA's sales people to actually air their views regarding their quotas and how to achieve these is another key factor in the success that the network is now starting to reap.

He relates that instead of setting arbitrary quotas, these are set according to how the market is actually faring and how the businesses of target advertisers are doing.

This way, sales people are not forced to meet impossible quotas, he explains.

Varied points of view

In the grand scheme of things, Quiogue says his having experienced being a client, an advertiser and now a network executive allows him to more accurately discern how the minds of potential advertisers work.

"I bring both a client's and an agency's point of view. I know how they both think. Because of this, we're more flexible. This is a strong advantage because we feel what the client wants," he says.

He used to occupy key marketing positions in Unilever, Levi Strauss and Coca-Cola. He was also a former president of ad firm J. Walter Thompson.

"The advertising schemes we offer clients are very simple, nothing complicated. Simple financial schemes are easier to understand," he says.

Of course, the leader cannot be the only one who knows how clients and agencies think. People under him must also have some idea how clients' minds work.

Quiogue relates that he imparts his knowledge to his people during weekly meetings where they discuss various issues and problems that they feel the network is facing.

"I share my knowledge with them and allow them to speak at the same time," he says.

Evolution

Facing stiff competition and still playing catch-up with ABS-CBN is another motivating factor for GMA people to work extra hard.

Ratings-wise, GMA still has some catching up to do as ABS-CBN which has a big chunk of audience share to its credit, with most of the overall top 15 shows in Metro Manila being ABS-CBN programs.

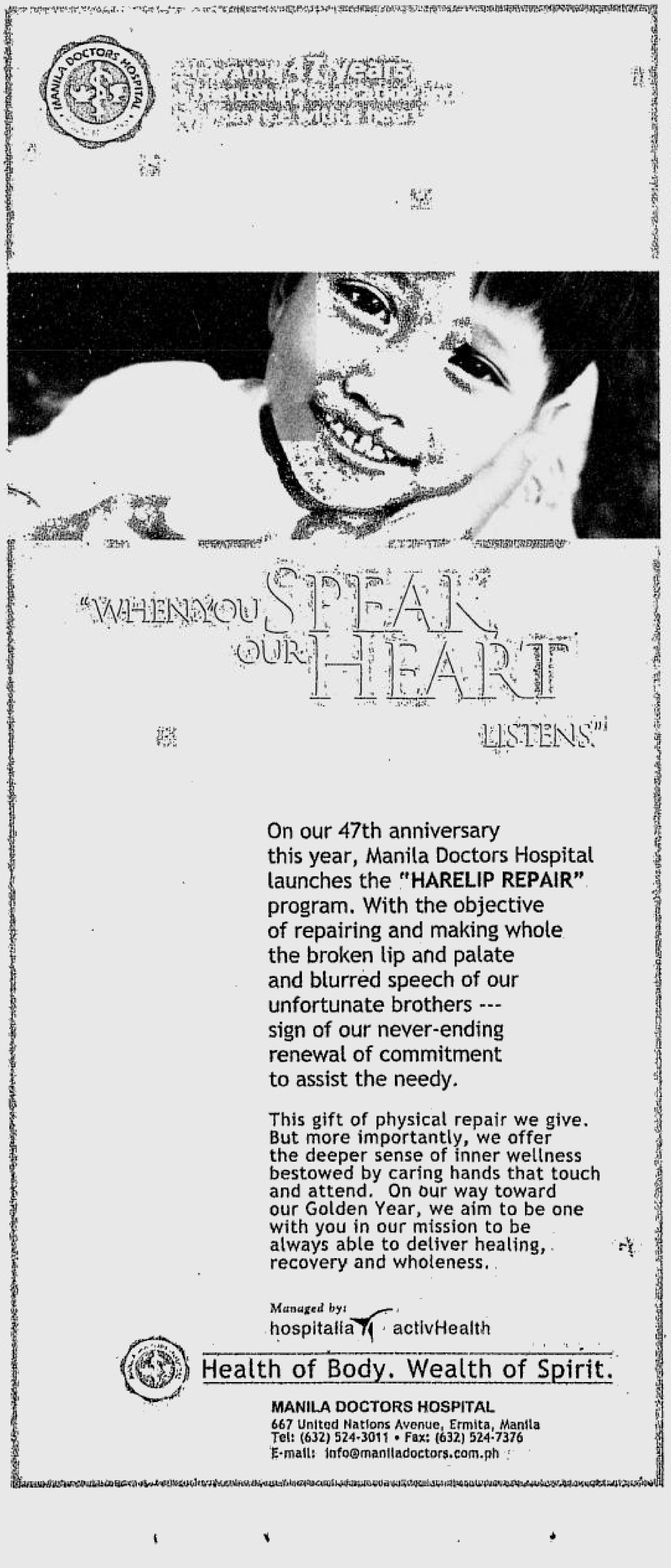
But this just encourages GMA people to work even harder, strive harder to catch up and eventually overtake ABS-CBN, Quiogue says.

"When you're number two, you have to try harder. GMA doesn't have as many resources as ABS-CBN. But I think we're evolving into a winning station now," he says.

He relates that GMA's goal is to be number one in both ratings and revenues.

According to the company's glide path toward that goal, he says "we're on target for our ratings goal and ahead of our revenue target for

GMA/B2-3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Latecomer in credit card game opts to tap its own players first

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SECURITY BANK
MasterCard

SINCE many other banks and financial institutions have flooded the market with all kinds of credit cards, there seems to be no reason why Security Bank Corp. should join the bandwagon this late in the game.

SB Cards Corp. chief operating officer Albert Villarosa, however, tells BusinessFriday that the bank's decision to enter the credit card scene was geared more toward strengthening its relationship with its own banking clients, something that other banks may have neglected.

Formerly Security International Card Corp., SB Cards Corp. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Security Bank Corp., one of the country's commercial banks.

"Our strategy is to tap our existing customer base because we as a bank must be able to offer the entire line, a full array of commercial banking products to our customers," Villarosa explains.

He adds that since the credit card was launched in June, in celebration of the bank's 52th anniversary, the response was encouraging. A six-month raffle promotion was put in place to encourage card applications and use.

"By tapping our own client base, we also save ourselves from problems that usually plague credit cards like past due because we already know our clients. These are people we have had relationships with for some time," he says.

Security Bank describes its core market as those belonging to the A and upper B income groups. It has about 200,000 depositors, a strong presence in the Chinese community and as much as 70 out of 114 of its branch network is in Metro Manila.

The market, Villarosa says, makes Security Bank clients ideal for the SBC card licensed under the Mastercard group.

The Mastercard affiliation ensures global acceptance, strong backing from a global network, and joins 1.7 billion other Mastercard cardholders, says Jose Rene Villareal, Mastercard region head for Asia Pacific.

Villarosa, however, stresses that the bank still put in special features in its credit card because it still faces competition from other credit card companies, even if it is targeting its own clients.

"Our goal is to put our card into the wallet of our banking clients, but hopefully with the good banking relationship, we would be able to do that," Villarosa says.

One of the key features, for instance, is the low minimum monthly payment on the balance of only four percent, compared to about 5 percent usually charged by other banks. SB-Mastercard also offers a flexible credit limit, card insurance perks and a rewards program.

Villarosa says the bank believes the low minimum monthly due would appeal to its market because people still want to accumulate products that they need, that they can pay off over a period of time.

"There is a market for it because people are always looking for convenience and a card that they can use to bridge gaps for those that they need beyond the basics," Villarosa says.

Villarosa adds that SB Cards would be ready to aggressively market its credit card to tap other consumers after serving with its growing pool of banking clients.

Mastercard's Villareal explains that despite the proliferation of credit cards in the market, the Philippines remains a relatively small credit card market.

"There are only about 3.5 million cards that are issued in the Philippines, compared to about 10 to 12 million ATM users. One of the reasons behind the slow growth is infrastructure because it is hard to offer cards outside Metro Manila," he says.

Twenty-six year old's light . . .

From page B2-4

ty items. First-time customers would usually notice the many unique items for sale and the beautiful arrangements of the display that show Marjorie's creative touch.

She discovered her talent in creating novelty items as early as high school, but making and designing candles was not one of the things she envisioned to be doing in the years. Hand-painting decorative plates and coffee mugs and collecting and decorating colored bottles were more her line and some of these items were sold to friends and later, to other people who liked them.

In her shop, some of the candles come in basic round, square or triangle shapes, while the others take the form of angels, roses, fruit trays, gems, marbles, planters, driftwood or a "sungkaan."

Sometimes, Marjorie would decorate her candles with local materials like raffia, sinamay and shells, among many others, and she would put some in glass containers.

The candles also come in different colors, and she attaches a meaning to each one.

For instance, white is for peace and spirituality, brown is for solving problems, and pink is for friendship and loving feelings. Red protects the home and its occupants, blue protects a person while sleeping, green is good for those seeking luck and prosperity, and yellow creates the mood for studying and reading.

Some candles also multi-colored such as the striped, marbled and layered.

On the other hand, the mood-setting scents that Marjorie uses for her candles include sampaguita, jasmine, strawberry, milk, citronella and lemon.

Prices of her candles range from a few pesos up to P950. She also sells in her shop some novelty items like colored bottles and hand-painted plates and mugs at reasonable prices.

Her decision to put up a shop of her own came started after she joined a candle-making training in Ormoc City, which was sponsored by the Department of Labor and Employment and handled by trainers coming from Manila.

This proved to be a turning point in her young life, for she never stopped making beautiful candles since then.

Although still new in business, Marjorie is proud to point out that she had already joined two national trade fairs such as the "Bahandi," the regional trade fair of Eastern Visayas held annually at the SM Megamall.

The Bahandi, which is being spearheaded by the Department of Trade and Industry here, does not only provide small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) a venue to deal with prospective buyers and to sell their goods. It also assists the SMEs in the development and promotion of their products.

Marjorie says making candles is not hard although it requires patience and creativity. The business also does not require big capital, a wide working space or a lot of manpower.

In fact, Marjorie does her own candles except when there are big orders. She buys most of her candle-making materials such as fragrance oil, paraffin wax, wicks and colorant chips from Cebu City.

Marjorie says that in these times when it is very hard to find a job, people must strive to earn a living by putting up small businesses like candle making. She also emphasizes that people should only open a business that they will enjoy doing.

This young entrepreneur reveals that one thing she enjoys most in candle making is that she can express herself through the designs, color and scents of the items she make. With candles now coming out in hundreds of different scents and a number of color combinations and shapes, Marjorie's creative mind will be kept quite busy.

Advice to an aspiring entrepreneur: Market to the poor

(Last of two parts)

MARKETING RX

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

THE QUESTION being answered last week was: "I'm set to retire from my corporate job at the end of the year. If things don't get worse here, I've decided to set-up my own business. What products sell well even during times of crisis? I was thinking of either food or consumer durables targeting the middle class."

Our marketing Rx to the aspiring entrepreneur was to set up a business that catered to the poor—or the masa. Reason being, that the poor simply spend more. Even more than the middle class—which is a disappearing class. The masa spend and splurge their money on special occasions such as fiestas and festivals.

It's useful to differentiate between a fiesta and a festival.

The fiesta is different from a festival although at times a festival may be a fiesta. A fiesta is a celebration of a locality's religious patron saint. A festival is a celebration of typically a nonreligious occasion although it can in some places coincide with the place's feast day of its patron saint.

Examples of nonreligious occasions are a place's folk origin like the Ati-Atihan of Kalibo, a "foundation day" like the "Araw ng Davao del Sur Festival," a crop or harvest festival like the month-long "Pineapple Festival" in Daet, Camarines Norte, a thanksgiving festival like the "Pista'y Dayat" of Lingayen, Pangasinan where the coastal town of Lingayen hosts this "bounty of the sea thanksgiving," and so on.

Both fiesta and festival are celebrated with a fair, a mass and a procession or a parade. On the actual celebration day, every house opens for a lunch, dinner or both. On the days preceding and after the day of celebration, every family goes out to the fair hosted by the town plaza. There, family members play some games, take some rides, and eat out. Food and gift and toy product stalls surround the fair grounds. They are either make-shift stalls or the rolling types.

If we ignore the cities (and there are 114 of them) and consider only municipalities of first to third class, the Catholic Directory of the Philippines counts a total of 713 parish and quasi-parish fiestas. Again, not counting those in the cities and those that are also fiestas, according to the Department of Tourism, first to third class municipal festivals number some 64 throughout the year. These 2 figures make for a total of 777 fiestas and festivals or 2-3 fiestas/festivals every day of the year.

When a leading ice cream client told me that those municipalities are not worth going to because sales could hardly break-even even when visited by a rolling type of stores, we asked: "when did your sales people go?" When we learned it was on some ordinary week or days, we said, "you went at the wrong time. Go there when they are ready to spend and you'll more than break even."

The masa splurge

That the poor spend is shown by their ownership of household durables. Even the very poor urban areas own colored TVs. In Metro Manila, for example, the priorities of the poor consumers have remained with the home entertainment household durables: the TV (with a 96 percent Class D ownership and 78 percent Class E). Owning a TV is priority over owning a refrigerator (83 percent Class D own, 42 percent Class E) and a bed (78 percent Class D own, 29 percent Class E).

The comparable figures for Cebu are:

TV: 96 percent Class D ownership, 63 percent Class E

Ref: 65 percent Class D ownership, 10 percent Class E

Beds: 48 percent Class D ownership, 7 percent Class E

For Davao:

TV: 92 percent Class D ownership, 49 percent Class E

Ref: 80 percent Class D ownership, 10 percent Class E

Beds: 64 percent Class D ownership, 4 percent Class E

And let's not forget about the DE's cell phone ownership. There are 8 million class D cell phone owners (estimated 42 percent class D ownership) and 1.8 million Class E cellphone owners (estimated 11 percent Class E ownership) in urban Philippines alone.

Remember, many of the rich remain rich because they are frugal.

On the other hand, the poor will remain poor because they spend. And many times, they spend beyond their means. It's an aspirational thing.

It's pathetic, but it's a marketing fact. Market to the poor, and you'll have a thriving business.

The only way things could get worse is if FPJ decides to run for president after all, and wins. Then the middle class would truly disappear. They'd all migrate to Canada or New Zealand. *Feedback at MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com*

GMA plays catch-up

From page B2-2

this year."

"But we're taking into consideration that ABS-CBN will not just sit down and allow us to overtake them. The battle is raging now. We'll still continue coming up with a lot of programming innovations," he says.

What's in store

Quiogue reveals that GMA's news and current affairs will continue to be strengthened and that more innovative programs will come out in the coming months and years.

"A lot of programming innovations this year and last year came from GMA, including "Wish Ko Lang" and "Magpakailanman." We figured that people must be tired of watching depressing shows so we came up with shows that granted people's simple wishes and showed victory in the midst of adversity," he explains.

GMA also plans to go international soon and also to reopen its UHF station, Channel 27.

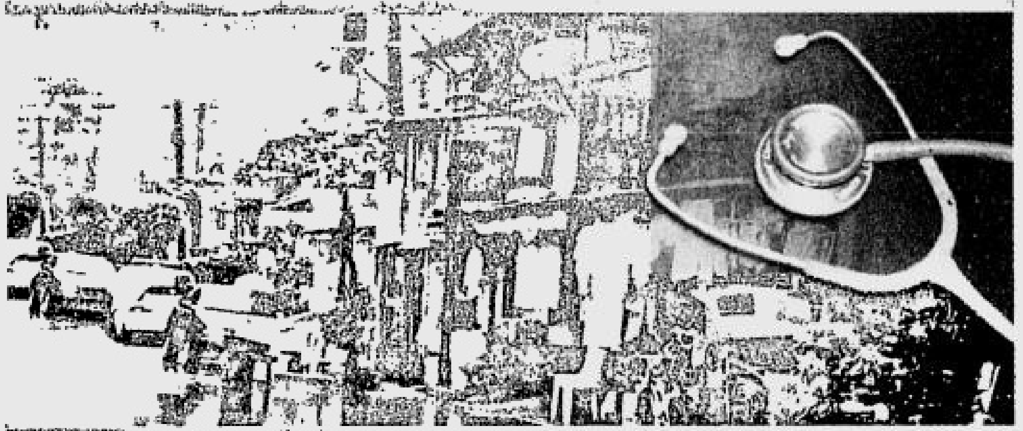
Two years ago, GMA Network shut down the operations of Channel 27 in preparation for the impending Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. buy-in of the broadcasting firm.

Channel 27 was then carrying music channel V Philippines, which directly competed with PLDT subsidiary Nation Broadcasting Corp.'s MTV Philippines.

With the shutdown of Channel 27, V Philippines pulled out of the Philippine market. Ironically, the PLDT buy-in did not materialize.

Early next year, though, Channel 27 will be back on air, possibly competing directly with ABS-CBN's Studio 23, which has the A and B youth market as its niche.

"Our strategy is to become No. 1. We're no longer just content with being No. 2. We want to be number one," Quiogue stresses.



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This gift of medical and health aid we offer. But more importantly, we provide the deeper sense of inner wellness bestowed by caring hands that touch and attend. On our way toward our Golden Year, we aim to be one with you in our mission to be always able to deliver healing, recovery and wholeness.

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BUSINESS Friday

Twenty-six year old's light venture gives her a glow

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

PALO, Leyte—There's nothing unusual in putting up a candle business in this ancient town that is considered the seat of the Catholic hierarchy in Eastern Visayas.

But it took a 26-year-old Marjorie B. Clarin, to go beyond selling common church candles and create candles that come in various sizes, color and fragrances. Candles that would scent up rooms, create an ambience and set one's mood. Candles suitable as gifts or give-away during special occasions like birthdays, weddings and other significant gatherings are also available. Even those for the dead and for religious purposes, albeit far different from the traditional candles, can also be bought from Marjorie's scented candle shop.

Her shop is located along the national highway in Palo town proper, but far from the town's business section.

It occupies an area of about 18 sq. m. on the ground floor of her family's two-story house. The family's grocery store occupies a bigger part on the ground floor.

Marjorie says that someday she may put up branches in big places like Tacloban City, which is just 11 kilometers away, and Ormoc City. But in the meantime, she believes her shop in Palo is just enough for her fledgling candle business.

"I have plans for expansion but at the moment, with the prevailing economic crisis, I prefer to stay here," she says.

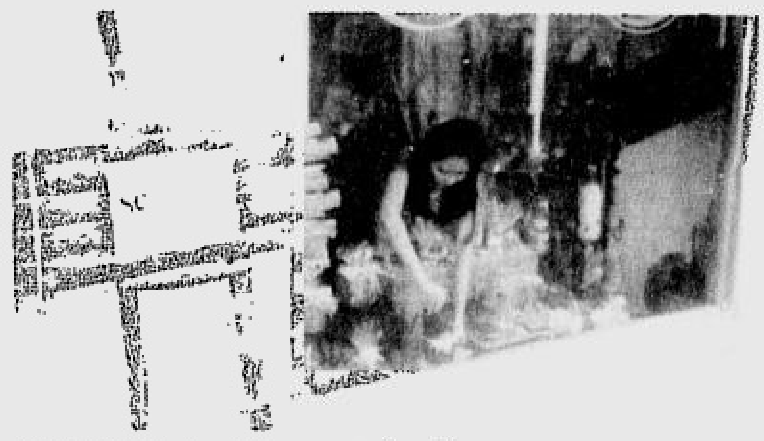
Surprisingly, her store seems to be the only scented candle shop in Leyte although there are other candle makers in the province.

Marjorie says she started her business in 2000 with a "small capital" that came from her savings and a loan from her parents.

Aside from some walk-in customers at her shop, Marjorie already has many customers from other Leyte towns and cities who patronize her shop. These include her friends, referrals and those in the buy-and-sell trade.

Her shop sells a wide array of scented candles and other novel-

TWENTY/ B2-3



MARJORIE Clarin with her scented candles. PDI PHOTO / PDI CEBU

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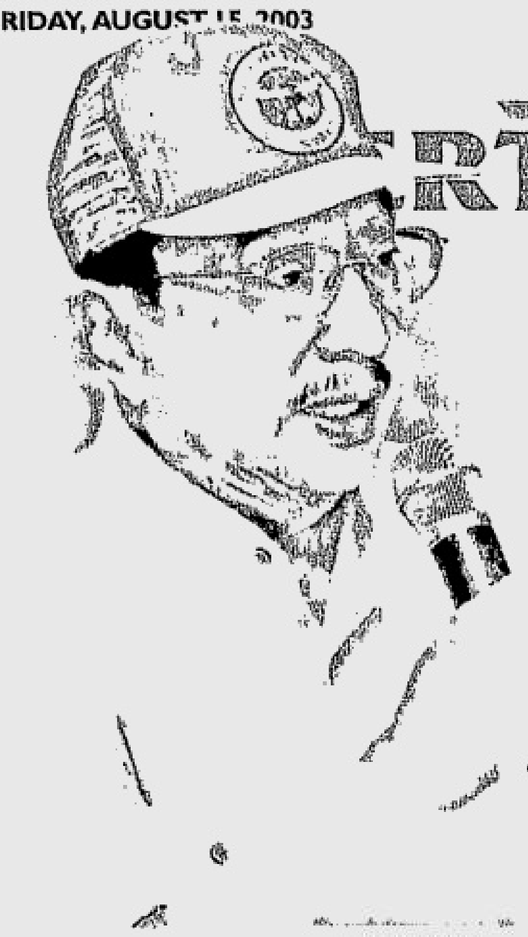

ROMY HOMILLADA

Dolphy staying alive for the annulment

By Nini Valera

THE KING of comedy is very serious about what he wants most of all: to walk Zsa Zsa Padilla down the aisle.

"I hope soon," said Dolphy, who turned 75 last July 25. "When I can still walk without a cane. I hope I am still alive when she gets her annulment."

Dolphy was speaking about the relationship during last Tuesday's launch of the new format of his television sitcom, now called "Home Along da Airport." The comedian is still waiting to marry the singer-actress, whose marriage to dentist Modesto Tatlonghari has yet to be annulled.

In speaking of his biggest wish, Dolphy recalled the years when he and Zsa Zsa were "crucified" in the media because they fell in love with each other.

He said he had to sell pieces of property in order to survive during the three years that he was jobless as a result of the condemnation.

"These properties helped me survive the three years when I did not have work," he said in Filipino.

Subject of sermons

He and Zsa Zsa became a couple in the late '80s. For the first time in his 60-year show business career, Dolphy stood on shaky ground. The movie they did together, "Anak ni Facifica Falayfay," failed at the box office.

"Even priests tackled our relationship in the pulpits," he said. "We were made the subject of sermons, an example of what should not be tolerated and imitated. We were called immoral."

He said he wanted to quit the business. "I no longer wanted to face the cameras then," he said. "I wanted to migrate to the States. I did not even want to look at magazines or whatever."

His long-running sitcom with the late Nida Blanca, "John and Marsha" on ABS-CBN, was cancelled after a 10-year run. The show no longer rated after his affair with Zsa Zsa became the subject of tabloids and sermons.

When the rival network approached Dolphy for a possible sitcom, he asked, "Are you sure you want me?" Before the project could take off from the drawing board, Dolphy was again the target of media malice.

"*Bubuhayin pa raw ba ang bangkay* (Why resurrect the dead)?" a tabloid story went, according to Dolphy.

"Now, the same people who made me an outcast are the same people now giving me awards," he said. "Those who wanted to destroy me are now full of praises for me."

All 18 children

Dolphy said that, aside from his wish to marry Zsa Zsa, he has nothing more he could ask God for himself, but he admitted that he now prays to God for his children, all 18 of them, from his various relationships.

Can he name all of his children?

"Of course," he said with pride. "Manuel,

DOLPHY/C7

LEGASPI with a former actor in a '60s movie

Cielito Legaspi and her beloved brown butterfly /C4

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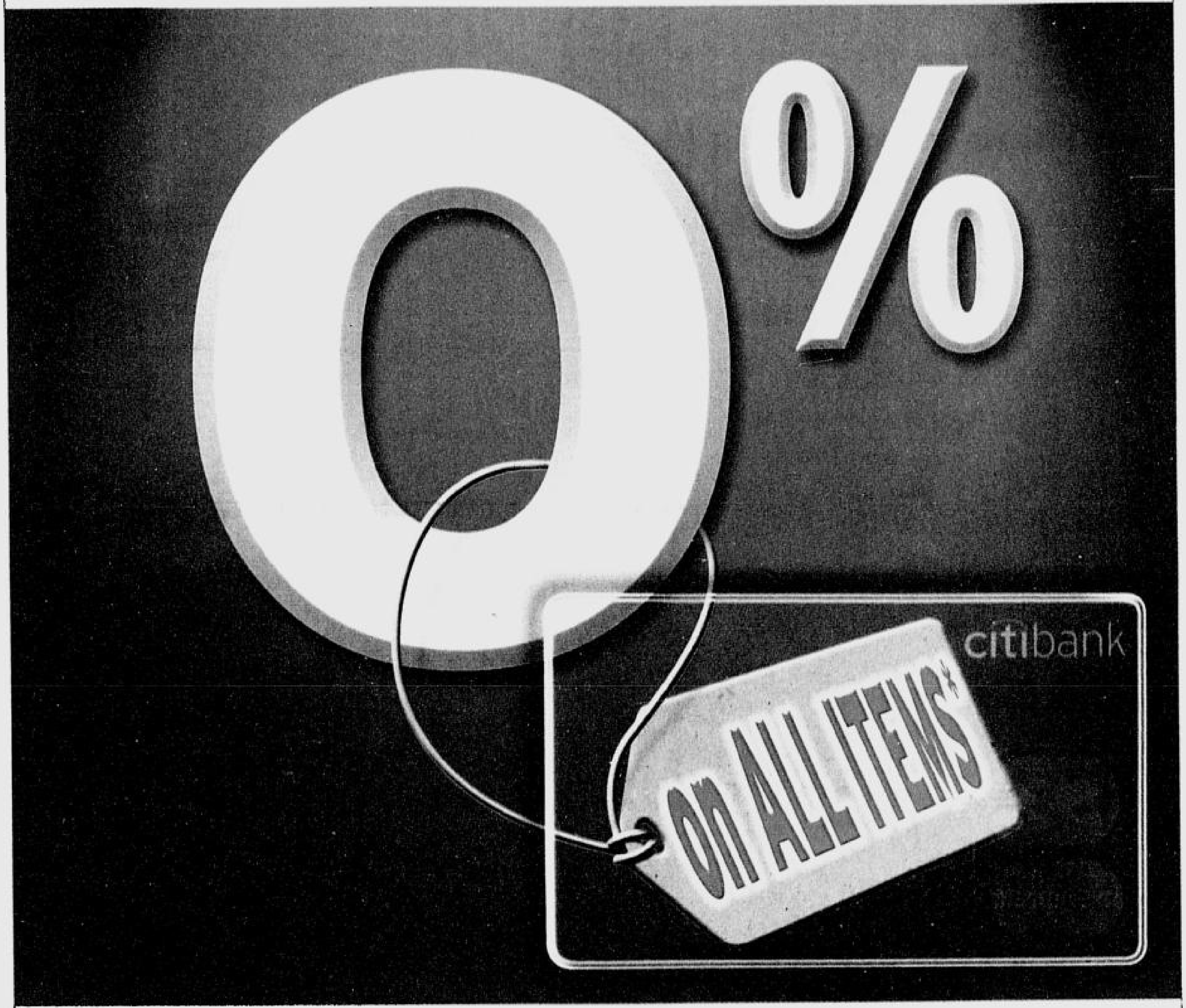

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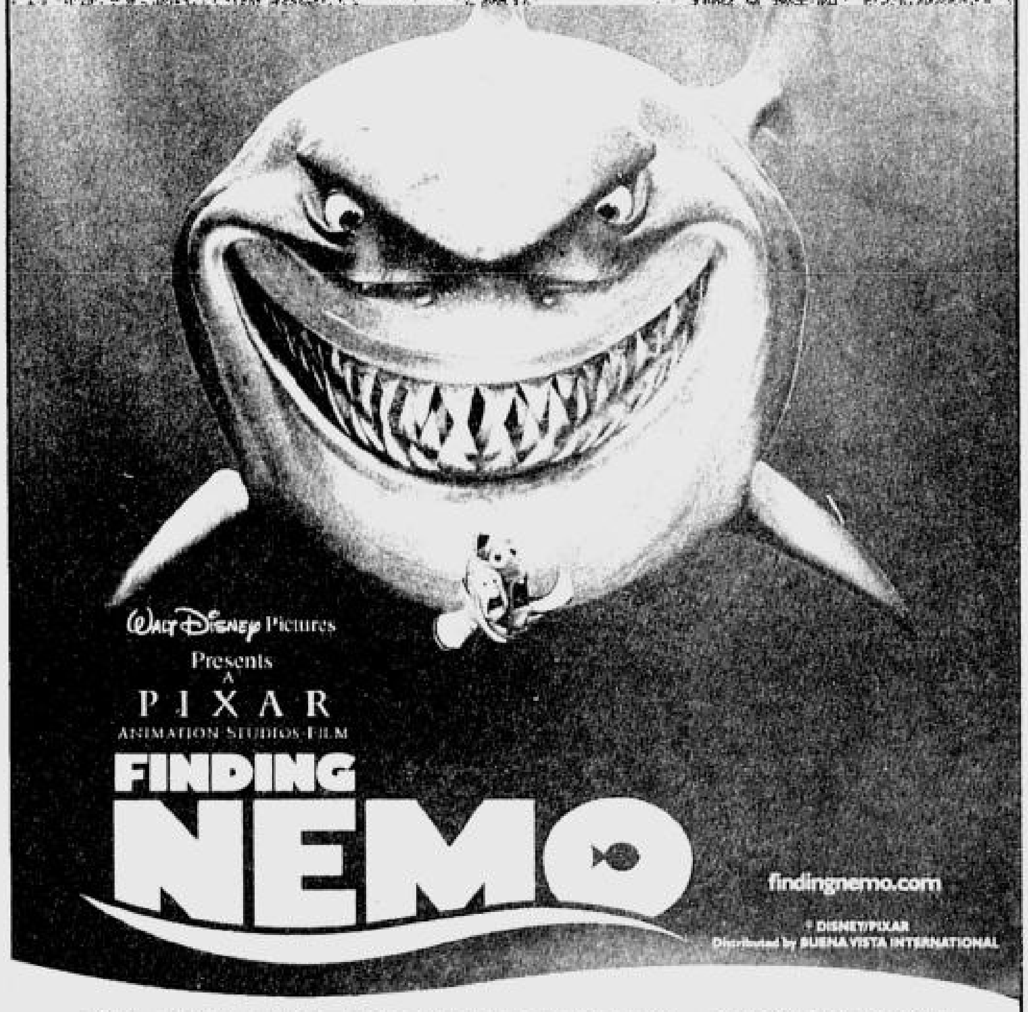
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QUEZON CITY

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CORONET A	BIGLANG LIKO / YOUNG VIRGINS
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CINEMA-7	SNAKE LADY
CINEMA-8	ALIPIN NG ALIW
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LXG
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CINEMA-12	DEBUT
CINEMA-14	BAD BOYS 2
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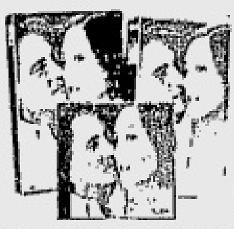

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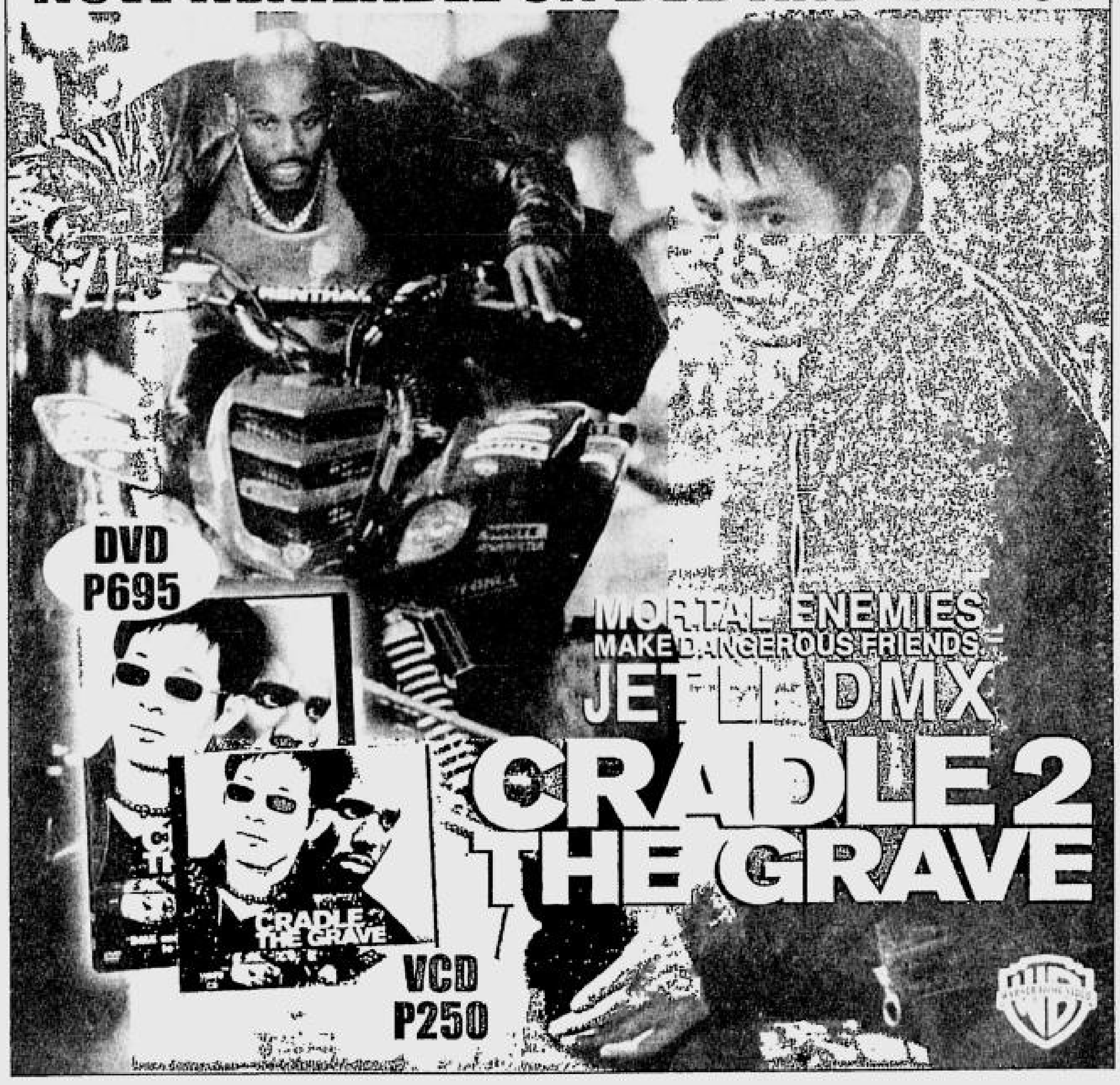
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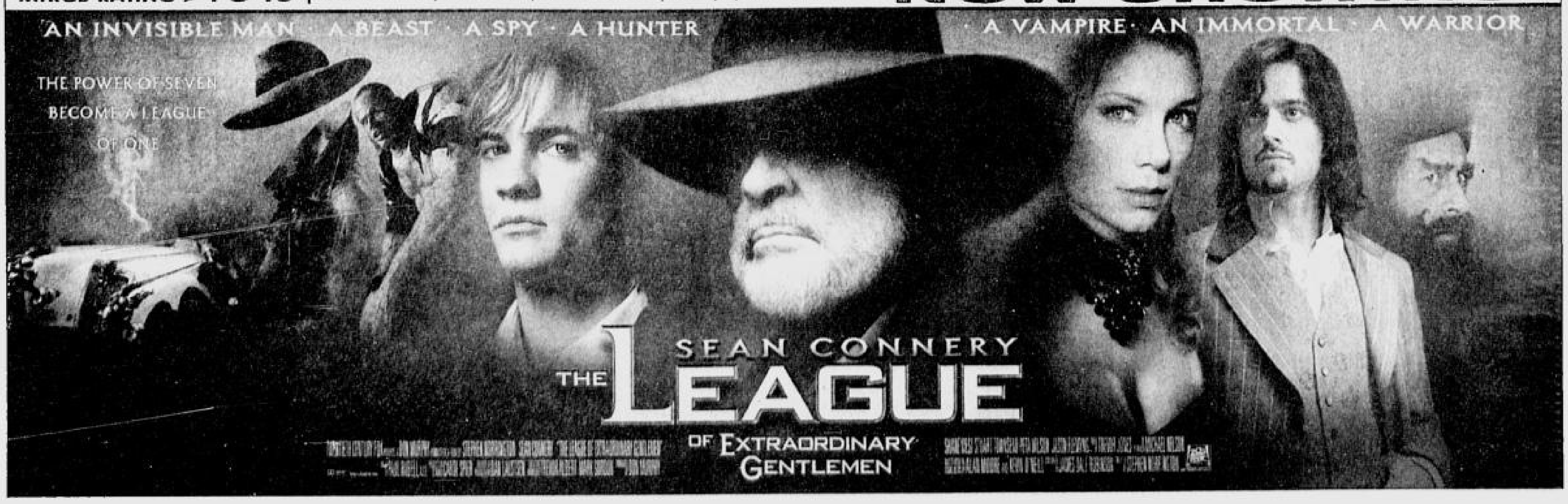
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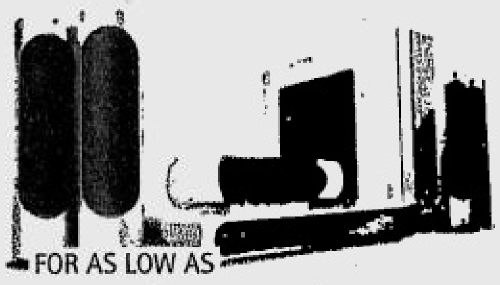

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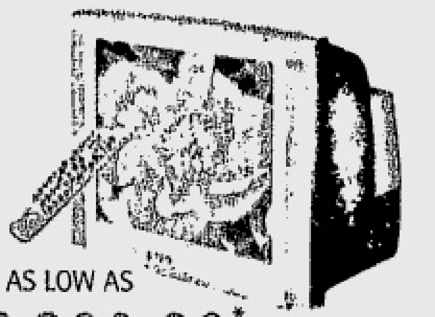

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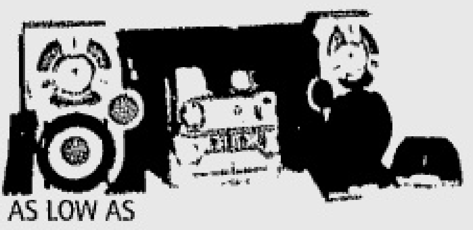

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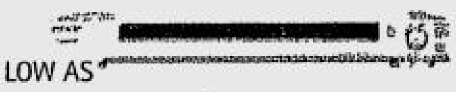

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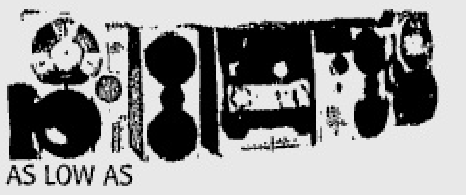

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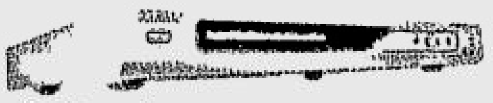

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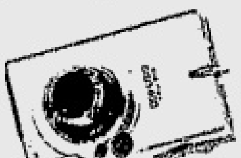

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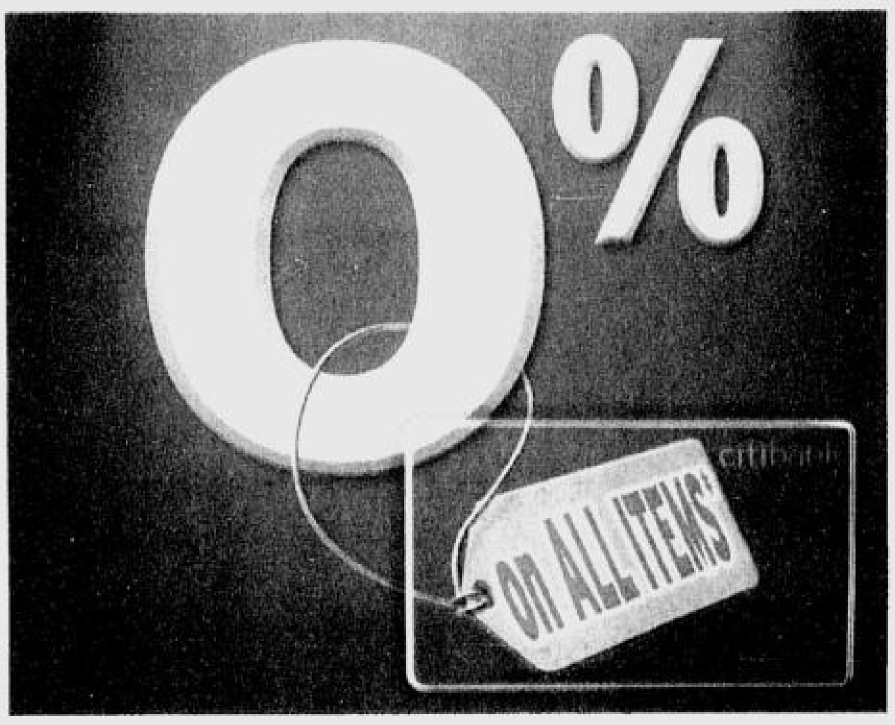

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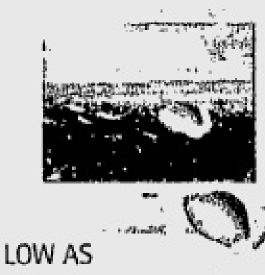

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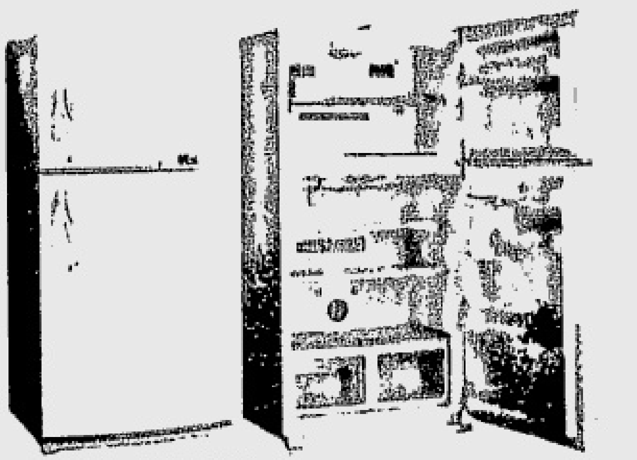

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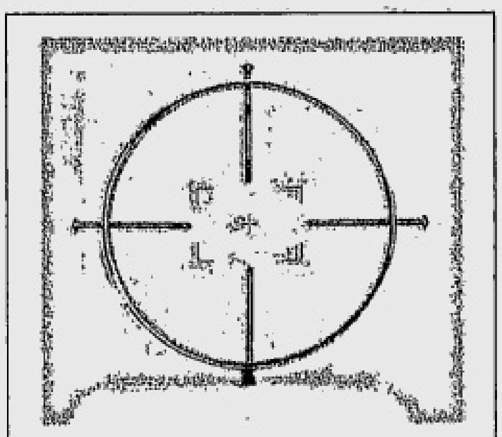


THE TROPHY, by RegYuson

Gawad Direk trophy for first 5 honorees

THE DIRECTORS' Guild of the Philippines Inc. will honor the first recipients of the Gawad Direk tomorrow at 7 p.m. at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo.

The honorees are directors Maning Borlaza, Chaning Carlos (posthumous), Celso Ad. Castillo, Ronwaldo Reyes (Fernando Poe Jr.) and Eddie Romero. They were chosen for not only creating their own niche and reputation but also notably for creating a cinema for the people and stamping their invaluable presence on Filipino culture.

Vilma Santos and Christopher de Leon host the affair, with specific portions assigned to Dolphy, Susan Roces, Charo Santos-Concio, Cherie Gil and Gloria Diaz, and special numbers by Joey de Leon, Ogie Alcasid, Kuh Ledesma, Aubrey Miles, Sunshine Cruz, Michael de Mesa, Manilyn Reynes, Aiza Seguerra, Cris Villonco, Janno Gibbs, Dingdong Dantes, Rufa Mae Quinto, Ara Mina and the Klasmeyts group of Herbert Bautista, Paolo Contis and Keempee de Leon.

The affair will be taped for television by APT Entertainment Inc., and will be

GAWAD/ C6

Cielito Legaspi and her bel

By Marinel R. Cruz

ALONE NOW (left) and with her dearly beloved on their 35th wedding anniversary

THE ACTRESS at 19

TOMORROW, former actress Cielito Legaspi will have been a widow for exactly five years. But to this day, she is still often moved to tears when talking about her husband of 38 years, director Pablo Santiago.

Her husband had suffered a kidney ailment and Cielito took care of him for six years until his death on Aug. 16, 1998. She now says a part of her did not want to give up on him, while another part wanted to let go of him because she could not bear to see him suffer any longer. The end came when he died of cardiac arrest at the Intensive Care Unit of Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital in Greenhills, San Juan. Complications from his diabetes and kidney ailments triggered the heart attack, says Cielito. He was 68.

"My children and I saw him suffer for almost six years," says Cielito, now 66, at the Santiago home in Quezon City that she now shares with two of her six children, Jun-Jun and actor-director Rowell.

Her eldest son Randy is one of the hosts of the daily noontime show "Masayang Tanghali Bayan" on ABS-CBN. Her youngest, Raymart, is a regular cast member of the GMA 7 sitcom "Kool Ka Lang."

Her husband's dialysis had been very costly, too, she says. "One injection cost P4,500," she explains. "He needed that three times a week."

Taking care of her husband eventually affected her own health. She had to watch over him round the clock, and she lost weight and became a chain smoker. She now suffers from arthritis and high blood pressure, she says.

Before Pablo died, he made her promise to quit smoking. She did.

Man of surprises

Although terribly weakened by his illness, Pablo was still full of surprises, she says.

"He took me to a taping at a house in Greenhills," she says. "When we got there, he said there really wasn't any. It turned out that the house was his birthday gift to me."

Also on her birthday in another year, he also surprised her with a Hi-Ace van, tied big ribbons.

On one Valentine's Day dinner, Pablo, was already being moved around i wheelchair, hid a pair of earrings an bracelet under Cielito's plate.

"I was so affected by Pablo's death th would sometimes wake up in the middl the night thinking that I still had a patie look after," she says. "This continued to pen even when he had been dead for a ye

Pablo and Cielito met and fell in lov 1956 on the set of "Lo' Waist Gang." She w star, he was the director. Four years later, tied the knot at the Manila Cathedral in In muros with that movie's lead star, Ferna Poe Jr., as Pablo's best man and actress Yo da Guevarra as the maid of honor.

"He was the only boyfriend I ever h Cielito says of her late husband. "We w called the most secretive pair because kept our relationship from everybody

Did You Know...

Seen dining at Pepato Italian restaurant in Greenbelt 3 one Friday night were **Maricel Soriano**, her manager **Wyngard Tracy**,

talent manager **Girlie Rodis** and **Veana Fores**, sister of Pepato's chef and owner, **Gaita Araneta Fores**. At another table were La Salle coach for the UAAP **Franz Pumaren** and his wife.

Katya's 'Keka' premieres in Makati Cinemanila

Show Time

"KEKA," starring Viva Hot Babe Katya Santos from Viva Films, premieres at the ongoing 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival on Monday, Aug.18, 2003, at Greenbelt Cinema 2.

In "Keka," Katya's role is a departure from her sultry characterizations in the past like "Sukdulan" and "Sex Drive."

The movie combines action, romance, violence and comedy. The story revolves around Keka Jose (Katya Santos), a child-woman who suffers the loss of her boyfriend and copes by going on a murder spree against the frat men who wronged her.

"Keka" also stars Wendell Ramos, Vhong Navarro, Jordan Herrera, Bobby Andrews, Luis Alandy, Ryan Eigenmann, Marky Lopez and many others.

It is only one of two local movies to be shown during the Makati Cinemanila.

The movie is written and directed by the young Quark Henares. It opens August 20 in theaters nationwide.

Maricar shows other side in Klownz

DE MESA does something else

ACTRESS Maricar de Mesa takes a break from her acting chores on Aug. 19, 2003 and displays her "other side" when she performs at Klownz Comedy Bar on Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, in "Maricar Sings in the City."

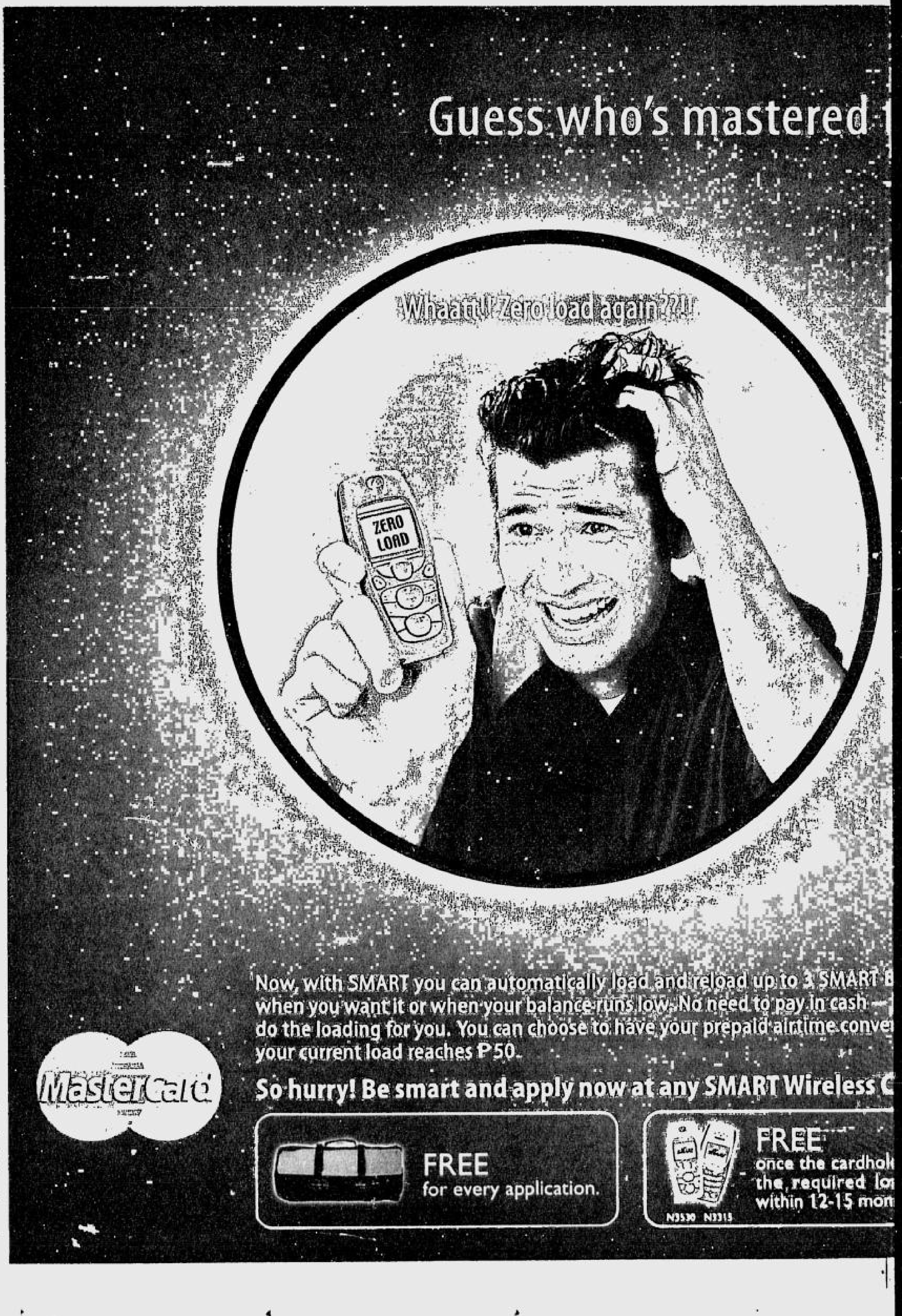
Starting out as a teen star who eventually became a household word as co-host of Arnell Ignacio on the defunct TV game show "Go-Bingo," Maricar shifted gears and starred in several sexy movies. She also played villain in the love story of Dingdong Dantes and Tanya Garcia, "Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga" on GMA.

For her show at Klownz Bar, Maricar will be backed by the Opus Band.

Joining Maricar in "Maricar Sings in the City" are her friends Gabby Eigenmann and JayR plus surprise guests.

Tickets are available at Klownz.

For more details, call 0916-220-7074 and 0918-344-9240.



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FADED PHOTOGRAPH, with the late Leopoldo Salcedo in "Sumpa't Pangako"

two years."

This was because she was actor Bob Soler's love interest in movies like "Mr. Basketball" and "Asintado," Cielito says.

"Only when they started pairing him with Edna Luna and Leonor Vergara did Pablo and I become more comfortable with our relationship," Cielito explains.

Pablo, who was then living in Bulacan, would drive her home to Sta. Mesa in Manila after every shooting day. Her father Jovito, who was a military man, allowed Pablo to take her out on dates only three times a week.

"We used to watch movies or go to Tagaytay, but always with a chaperon," she recalls. "I had to be home by 10 p.m."

Cielito was only 17 when her uncle Jose Garcia, a character actor for Premiere Productions, brought her to the Premiere studio for an audition. She eventually signed a three-year contract with People's Picture, the talent management arm of Premiere.

"What I really wanted then was to be a nurse," Cielito shares. "But when I started making movies, I became interested in show business."

She first appeared in the movie "Prinsesa Villarba" as Cynthia Zamora's lady-in-waiting. She continued to do bit parts until she was featured in Gerry de Leon's "Bella Pilipina" with Tita Duran.

Cielito also worked for Larry Santiago Productions, a film outfit that Pablo helped create, appearing in such movies as "Gabi ng Lagim," "Mga Lihim ni Tiya Dely," "Walang Daigdig," "Los Lacuacheros" and the romantic comedy "Sumpa't Pangako" where she played opposite a young actor who would later be deposed as the country's president, Joseph Estrada.

Cielito, along with the late Alicia Vergel, was also featured in the US war movie "Day of the Trumpet," shot in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

"I might have become a Hollywood actress had my father allowed me to go to the US by myself," Cielito says. "He turned down a film offer because its American producer did not want me to bring a chaperon along."

When Cielito turned 23, she decided not to renew her contract with Premiere anymore, "because Pablo asked me to marry him." He was 29 when they were married.

Alone all day

Tomorrow, Cielito, her four sons and daughter Rhea will mark Pablo's fifth death anniversary by hearing Mass and having dinner together. Her youngest daughter, Chi-Chi, is based in the United States.

"It feels like he has never really left my side," Cielito stresses. "I would feel his presence once in a while. Sometimes, he would lock our bedroom door for me before I sleep. He also used to show himself through a brown butterfly."

When not undergoing physical therapy at the Manila Orthopedic Hospital for her arthritis, Cielito spends most of her time at home watching television.

"I'm alone almost all day," says the widow. "I'm so into watching *telenovelas* that I even had a small TV installed in my van."

She looks forward to Sundays because that is the day she spends time with her grandchildren.

She is open to the possibility of facing the cameras again. "TV guestings maybe," she says. "I don't think I'll be able to handle a full-length film."

FUTURE EX-PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada with Cielito, also in "Sumpa at Pangako"

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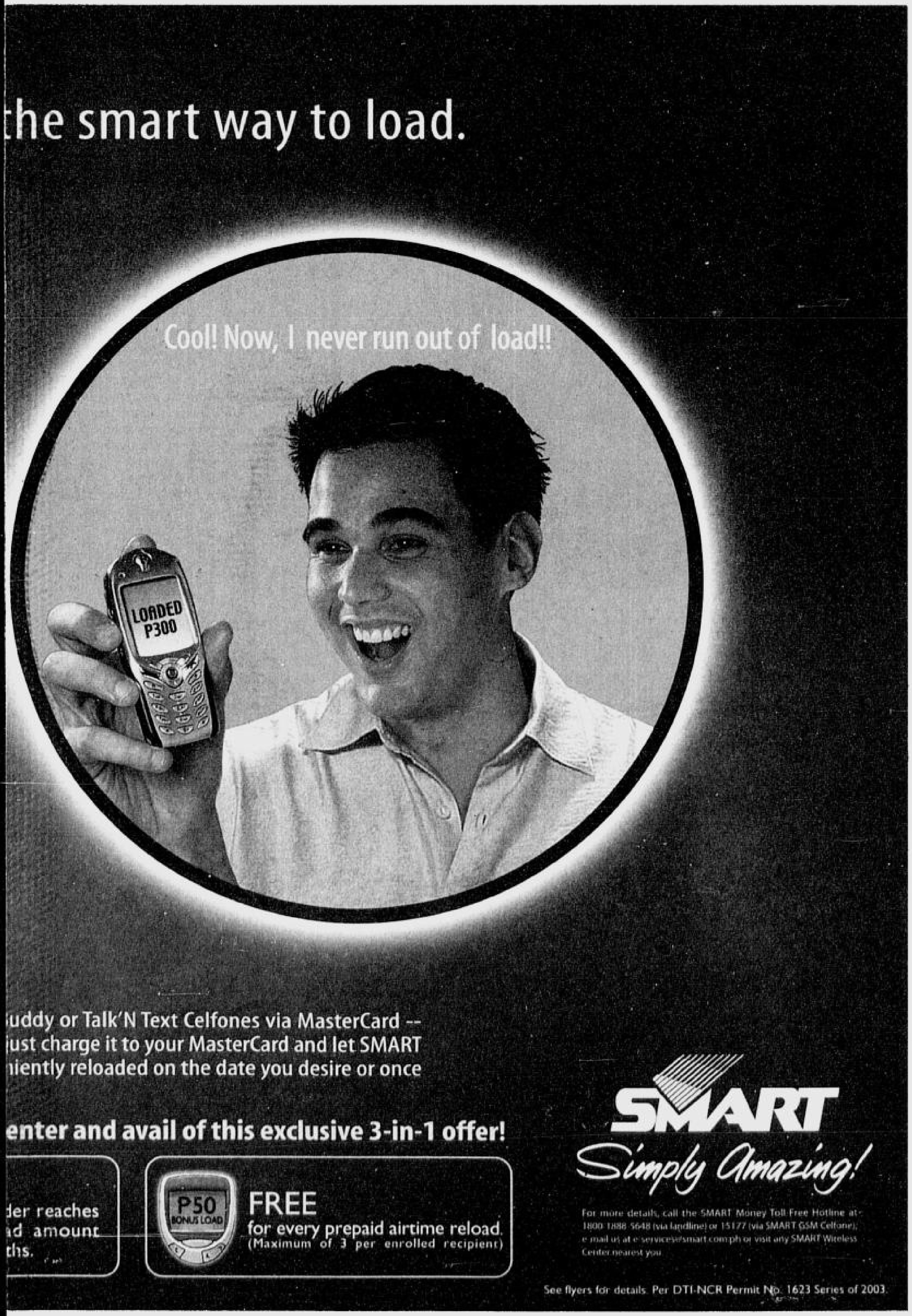

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Charlize Theron in chase caper

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

CHARLIZE Theron, one of the most beautiful young actresses to make it in Hollywood in the last decade, goes against type and becomes one of the boys in her latest film, "The Italian Job."

In a sense, she's doing what **Julia Roberts** did in the remake of "Ocean's Eleven," being the only woman in a stellar cast of largely male leads.

But it can be argued that Charlize does it with greater impact, since she's cast as one of the best safecrackers in the business, and a veritable wiz at setting off explosions, and other assertive stuff like that.

"The Italian Job" is also a remake of the 1969 British classic, featuring one of the best car chases seen on the screen in years. There's a lot of physical action turned in by the stellar likes of **Mark Wahlberg, Edward Norton, Donald Sutherland, Seth Green, Mos Def** and **Jason Statham**.

But Theron is in no danger of getting lost in all that testosterone-fuelled action, because she's got a lot on her own behalf, as she plays a safecracker with a mind of her own, and virtuoso driving skills that forever cancel out the pejorative connotations attached to the term "lady driver."

Truth to tell, Charlize's character didn't even exist in the original film. Even the plotline is quite different, although the new production strives mightily to be true to the spirit of the original movie, which is why the film was deemed to be deserving of a remake, in the first place.

The changes are all to the good, because sad past experience indicates that a merely copycat remake is a recipe for disaster.

It's interesting to note that Charlize's safecracker character wasn't even in the 1969 film. But the actress quickly made the newly-written role her own, and her male co-stars had to hustle to keep up with her.

In the chase caper, Charlize is the daughter of a professional thief (Donald Sutherland) who works with Charlie (Wahlberg) on a gold heist in Venice, which unfortunately goes terribly wrong.

Edward Norton's character runs them over, kills Sutherland, and heists the gold off them. Three years later, Charlize is asked by Mark to join him in another heist to avenge themselves on Norton, and get the gold back. Knowing that Norton killed her father, Charlize has no choice but to agree.

Charlize was challenged by her unique role and didn't want to come off like a klutz, so she learned safecracking from professional safe technicians.

As for her driving skills, she's always been a good driver. Her parents were both mechanics and had a road construction company, so she grew up around machinery. Plus, her dad built cars and go-carts, so from a very young age, living on a farm in Africa, she was racing go-carts, dirt bikes, and rough stuff like that.

So, Charlize has always had a love for speed. All it took to get her ready for her daunting driving scenes for "The Italian Job" was some weeks of extra training, which the guys also had to take.

And, the result? A stunt man told Charlize that she put the guys to shame! Sweet vindication, that, not just for Charlize, she recalls thinking at the moment, but for all much-disparaged women drivers everywhere.

Michael Buble in concert

GREAT news for fans of **Michael Buble**: The soulful balladeer will perform at the PICC Plenary Hall on Sept. 17.

The 25-year-old Canadian sensation will entertain his fans in Manila with his passionate takes on old songs like **Frank Sinatra's** "Come Fly With Me," **Paul Anka's** "Put Your Head on My Shoulder," and **Peggy Lee's** "Fever."

Blessed with good looks and talent, Buble fuses the sound of the classics and his youthful appeal to score strongly with music buffs of all ages—of course, with particular focus on his female fans.

His self-titled debut album has figured in the Top Five charts at Tower Records, Music One and O Music outlets. Call 844-8153.

Auditions

THE NEW musical, "Maria, Atbp.," is holding auditions from 1 to 6 p.m. on Aug. 16 at the Rehearsal Hall, Concert at the Park Auditorium, Luneta, Manila. Auditionees are asked to bring a whole-body photograph and a cued minus-one tape.

CHARLIZE/ C6

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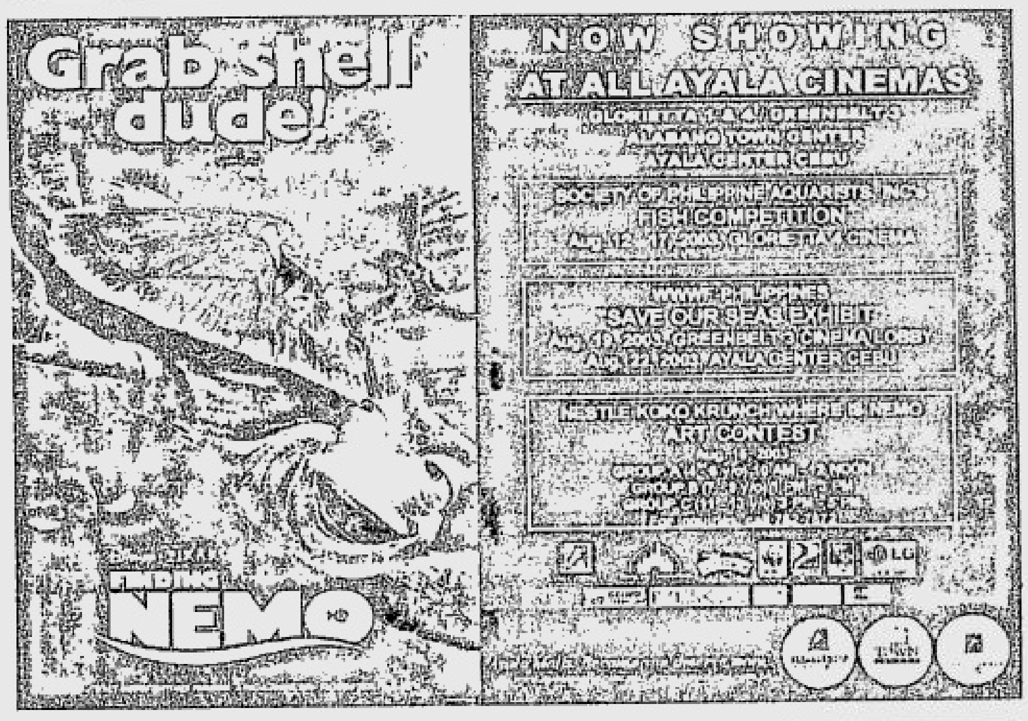
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GMA 7, CLOSE UP FOR METROPOP For the first time, GMA 7 and Close Up, staunch supporters of Original Filipino Music, will present the Metropop Song Festival 2003. Present at the Aug. 12 contract signing were (seated from left) Marla Teopaco, vice president, events management division, GMA Marketing and Productions Inc.; Raymund Timbol, EVP, Masscom Inc.; Close Up's Angela Reyes, GMA's Leah Nuyda, (standing, from left) Masscom media planners Parrah Castaneda and Hy-C Chan, Close Up's Claire Pascua, and GMA's Mia Mangubat-Policarpio. The last day for the submission of entries is today, Aug. 15. Call 892-2079, 8922057 or 810-9266.

Boy on smoking and alcohol

ARE you ready to lose a loved one to vice?

Metro Manila has turned into one big "no-smoking" zone, and the smokers are fuming mad.

When is a drink just a drink and when is it a problem? A reformed alcoholic makes a confession, and a family broken by alcohol spills its deep dark secret.

Tomorrow, Boy Abunda's "Kontrobersyal" takes on cigarettes and alcohol: harmless habit or deadly vice?

"Kontrobersyal" airs every Saturday at 10:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

Gawad Direk...

From page C4

directed by Mark Reyes. Admission is open to the public.

The Gawad Direk trophy consists of a clear acrylic rectangle featuring a cross-hair pattern in the center and frame lines at all corners. The piece floats in the middle of a 10-inch diameter chrome steel ring with the aid of four 4-inch stainless steel screws. The entire composition rests on a clear acrylic base containing the DGPI logo, the names of the Guild and of the honoree.

As the materials used and the aesthetic composition imply the technological and creative components of cinema, the markings and proportions of the rectangle recall the ground glass of a camera viewfinder and suggest the director's role as both chronicler and active social participant, ready and willing to expose the human condition.

Visual artist Reg Yuson studied painting and sculpture at the UP College of Fine Arts. He has gained recognition through years of consistent exhibitions primarily of large and human scale sculpture, in numerous solo and group exhibitions locally and internationally.

His sensibility is mainly minimalist and abstract, featuring simple reductive forms true to the nature of the materials used, and somewhat constructivist in spirit.

His latest project is the newly completed fountain at the second level of Greenbelt 3, Makati.

Charlize...

From page C5

The musical is slated to open its run in September, and will also go on a campus tour. The Gantimpala Theater Foundation production is written by **Bibeth Orteza** and directed by **Tony Espejo**. Call 536-5860.

"Maria, Atbp." revolves around the theme, "No to violence against women and children." It is presented by Gantimpala, the Women and Gender Commission-AMRSP and Earthlinks Multimedia Corp.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	NOON AT NGAYON
Ali 2	NAKED WEAPON
Ali 3	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 4	LXG
Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 7	FINDING NEMO

ARANETA COLISEUM	
AUG 16	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 17	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 24	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 28	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 30	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
SEPT 4	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

Dolphy staying alive for the annulment

From page C1

WITH THE other stars of "Home Along da Airport" (from left): Smokey Manaloto, Nova Villa, Long Mejia, Camille Pratts, John Wayne Sace, Vandolph and director Ipe Pelino

ROMY HOMILLADA

Salud, Junior, Freddie, Edgar, Rolly, Mariquita, Carlos, Geraldino, Edwin, Rommel, Ronnie, Eric, Jana, Jeffrey, Vandolph, Zia and Nicole."

He became animated when he talked about a movie that megastar Sharon Cuneta is planning to produce with himself as the star.

"This is planned for this year," he said. "They already gave me the script. It's a good script."

Very fortunate

He gives the new actors this piece of wisdom: "*Noong araw, sampung piso ang isang artista. Ngayon, sampu piso* (There was one actor for every ten bucks before. Now, there are ten actors for every buck). You cannot tell who would become big. Sometimes, that would come late, like in the case of Ramon Revilla.

"There are also the lucky ones. One of their feet is already in show biz circles even before they entered the business. Like my children. They are known right away. They are so fortunate."

He describes himself as semi-retired, content with one sitcom, and happy with whatever happens.

"If I retired, I would have nothing to do but go to church," he said. "If there's no movie, fine. If one comes, fine."

That he had returned to conquer TV and the big screen again after his fall from grace is testimony to his enduring popularity. But he admitted that his TV projects, like his "Home Along da Riles," have to be repackaged constantly to be more relevant to the times.

Repackaged

Last Tuesday, ABS-CBN launched "Home Along da Airport." Claudine Barreto, whose stardom made her outgrow the sitcom, is no longer part of the cast, but Nova Villa is still there as Dolphy's wife.

The repackaging is a natural process, said Dolphy, a veteran of trends and a survivor of trying times. A sitcom has to be given a new lease on life after 10 years, he said.

Then there are the soaps, the most formidable rivals for audience share during prime time.

"All the sitcoms now have semi-prime time slots," he observed.

Despite the soap trend, Dolphy has managed to hang on to his popularity despite his foray into the unfamiliar territory of art house films with Gil Portes' "Markova, Comfort Gay."

"That one did not click," he said. "But I had emotional satisfaction with that."

"Markova" was the story of a gay comfort woman servicing the Japanese forces that occupied the Philippines. The role is a departure from the stereotypical cross-dressing gender-benders that Dolphy had plucked out of the closet into mainstream pop consciousness beginning with "Jack and Jill."

Just a job

"That was the first time an openly gay role was done in a movie," he said of "Jack and Jill," which co-starred Lolita Rodriguez.

"I can't forget that role. That movie made me big. After that, I was offered starring roles. I think I started that trend."

The gay roles, including the landmark Facifica Falayfay also triggered doubts about Dolphy's sexuality.

"That's why I bore many children," he laughed.

"But (accepting gay roles) was just a job. If you're under contract, you cannot do anything but accept whatever they give you. They even made me play a gay Darna."

He had also received offers to do drama, which bewildered the actor, who thought drama was more lightweight than comedy "because if you want people to laugh, but they don't find you funny, then that is no longer comedy."

The script of Lino Brocka's movie "Ang Tatay Kong Nanay" landed on his lap one day. After he read it, Dolphy was not sure that it was he the filmmaker was after.

"This is a drama," he said of the movie. "Are you sure you want me for this?"

Japayukis

Much earlier, the role of a Chinese coolie testifying in a murder trial in court, at the old Orient Theater in wartime Manila, was Dolphy's big break. When the act clicked and the audience found him funny, Dolphy was given a part in a daily skit. That was in 1944, and the star of the times was the father of Fernando Poe Jr.

"There was a war, and during the air raids, we would all go to the shelters," he said. "After the 'All clear,' we would come out again and continue with the show."

He claimed to be one of the first Japayukis, along with the late dancer Bayani Casimiro.

"In 1951, Bayani and I went to Japan to perform," he said. "Six months there, then back again."

This phase lasted three years, after which the movies beckoned, and the comedian became larger than life.

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BAD BOYS 2 **R13** 12:20,3:20, 6:20,9:20	**DEBUT** **R13** 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:300	**LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN** **PG13** 12:10,2:45,5:20,7:55,10:30

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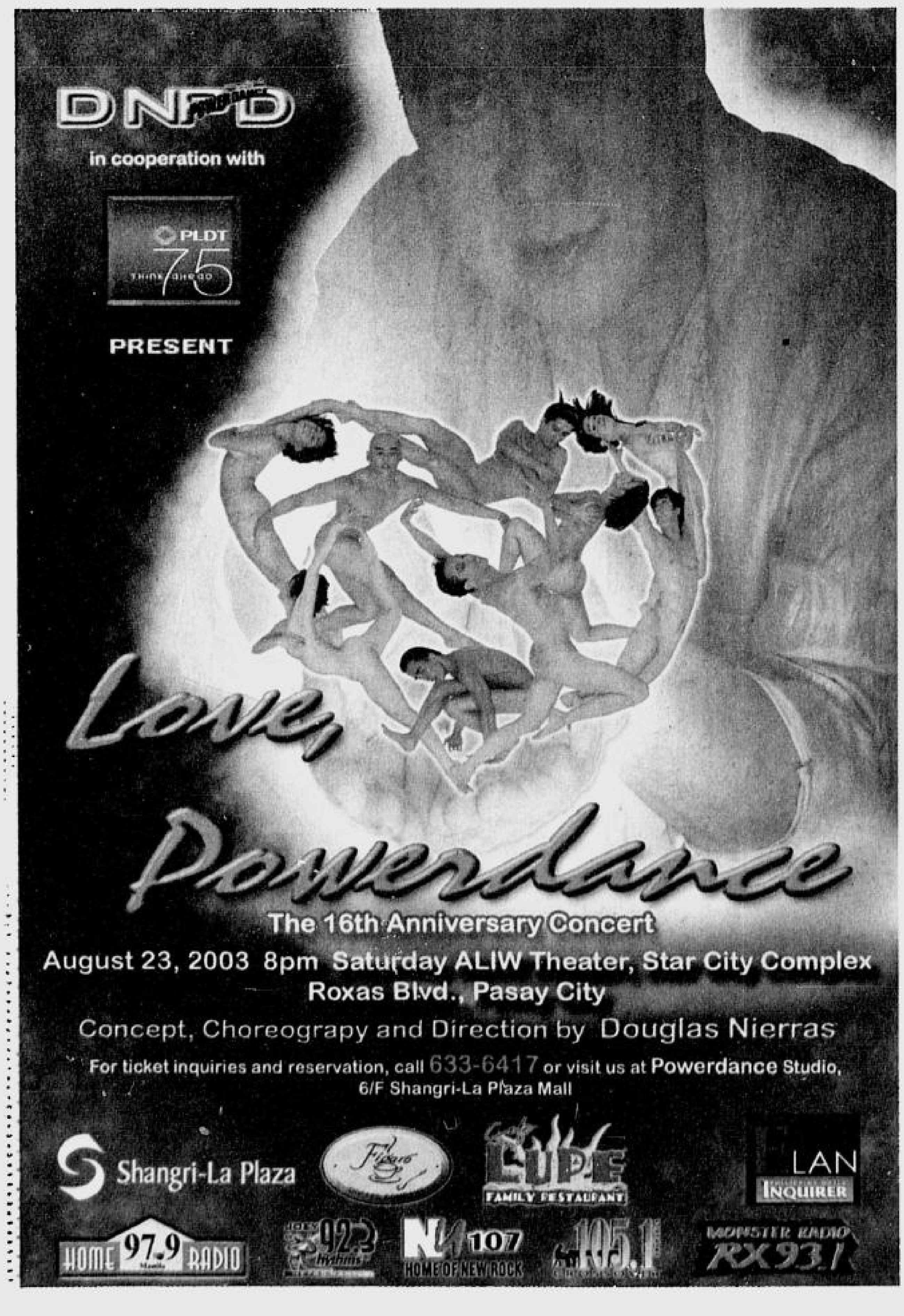
	[illegible]	THE TRACKER	DOGVILLE	[illegible]	LAN YU	SWIMMING POOL France
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	24 HOUR PARTY PEOPLE United Kingdom
	[illegible]	CA BAU KAN	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	CITY OF GOD	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	MAYA India
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	BOB DYLAN	SWIMMING POOL France
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	LAN YU Hong Kong	MAYA India

Changes in the screening schedule are a result of film festival print traffic. Additional screenings to be announced later



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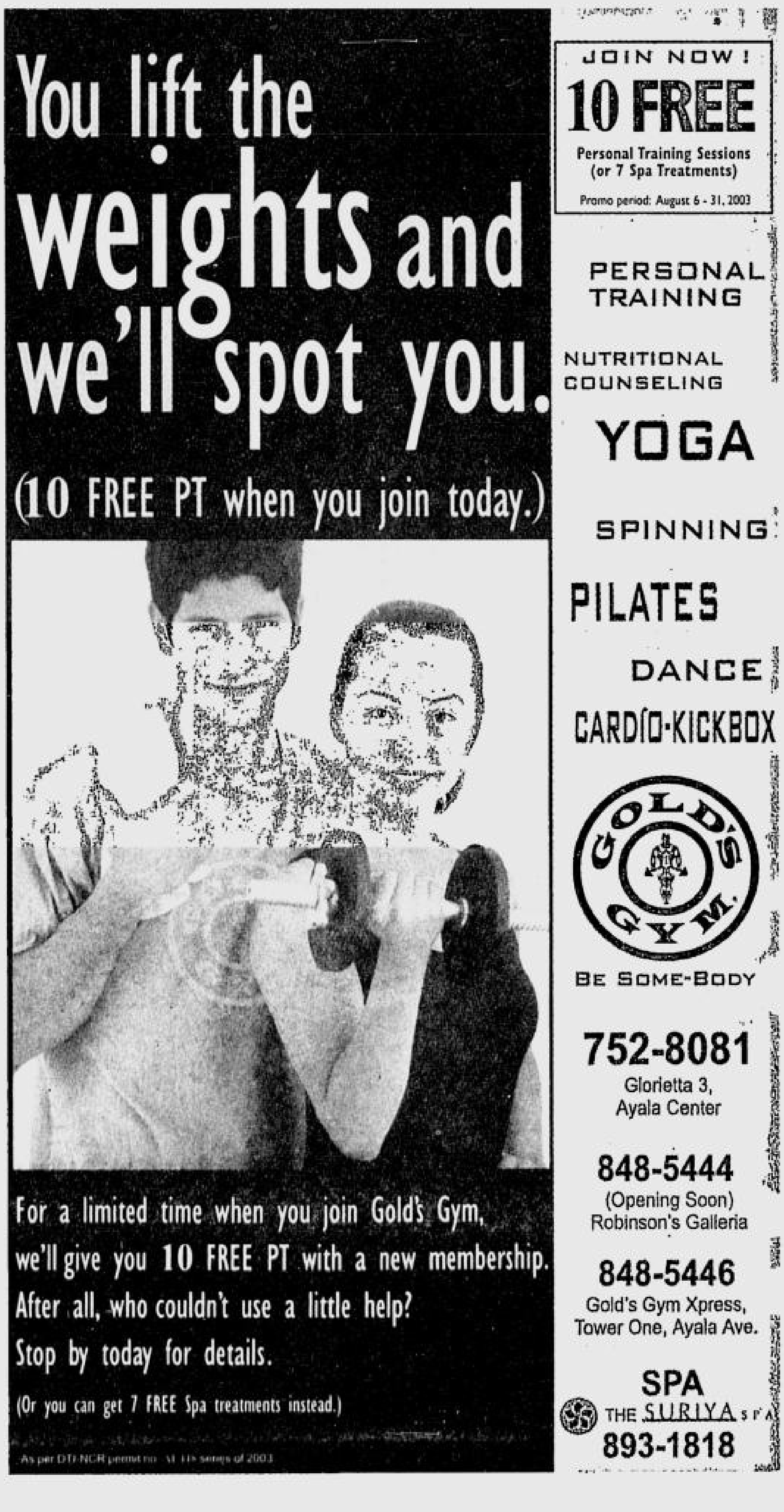
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"THE PASSION." Gibson directs Jim Caviezel (center), who plays Christ. The other actor is Caviezel's double. AP

'We hope Mr. Gibson will consider modifying the film,' says Jews

Anti-Semitism fears

LOS ANGELES—Mel Gibson's new film "The Passion" has already unleashed a wave of anti-Semitism in the United States despite the fact that it won't be released for months, a Jewish leader said on Tuesday.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, told Reuters the Jewish human rights organization had received dozens of hate calls and letters prompted by a handful of private screenings and advance publicity about the movie.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) also expressed concerns Tuesday that the final scene in "The Passion," depicting Jesus's crucifixion at the hands of Jews, will fuel anti-Semitism.

"The film unambiguously portrays Jewish authorities and the Jewish mob as the ones responsible for the decision to crucify Jesus," said Anti-Defamation League director Abraham Foxman in a statement.

"The Passion," is Gibson's depiction of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and events leading up to it. It has raised concern that it might portray Jews as collectively guilty for Christ's death.

The film is not scheduled for general release until early next year.

Representatives of the Anti-Defamation League saw the movie in a private screening and the League said on Monday that if it was released in its present form it could "fuel the hatred, bigotry and anti-Semitism that many responsible churches have worked hard to repudiate."

"The Passion" was shot in Italy and contains dialogue only in Latin and Aramaic.

Gibson, a traditionalist Roman Catholic who directed and co-wrote the film, has denied intending to fuel anti-Semitism.

"Mel's interest is just the opposite, as he has stated previously, that this film is about love, hope, faith and forgiveness," Gibson's publicist, Alan Nierob, told the entertainment trade paper Hollywood Reporter earlier this week.

But Hier said the bigotry had already started, and that the Simon Wiesenthal Center had received hate mail from people who had seen or heard about the movie, and who accused Jews of killing God's son, praised Adolf Hitler and made veiled threats against the center and Jews collectively.

"Are there any manifestations of hate so far?" Hier said. "The answer is an unequivocal yes."

"We have had hate mail in the past," he added. "But never in spurts like this."

Hier cited one writer who praised Hitler as "much kinder to the Jews than I would have been," and signed his letter "a very concerned American, name withheld for fear of retaliation by you Jewish scumbags."

"We are deeply concerned that the film, if released in its present form, will fuel the hatred, bigotry and anti-Semitism that many responsible churches have worked hard to repudiate," said Anti-Defamation League director Foxman.

"We hope that Mr. Gibson and Icon Productions will consider modifying 'The Passion', so that the film will be one that is historically accurate, theologically sound and free of any anti-Semitic message," Foxman said.

Starring Jim Caviezel ("Angel Eyes," "The Count of Monte Cristo") as Jesus and Monica Bellucci as Mary Magdalene, the film opens in cinemas next year.

The Anti-Defamation League is one of the best known organizations fighting anti-Semitism through programs aimed to counter prejudice and race hatred. *AFP, Rueters*

DID YOU KNOW...

ABS-CBN's executive vice president **Charo Santos-Concio** nearly became a recording artist over two decades ago, but backed out before she could release an album. She recorded a single for Vicor, "Nangangamba," which was never commercially released, but was launched in **German Moreno's** now-defunct variety program, "Germs Special." Charo was a student at St. Paul's College Quezon City when she was discovered by **Clodualdo "Doy" del Mundo** to star in **Mike de Leon's** first directorial opus, "Itim," which won for her the Asian best actress award.

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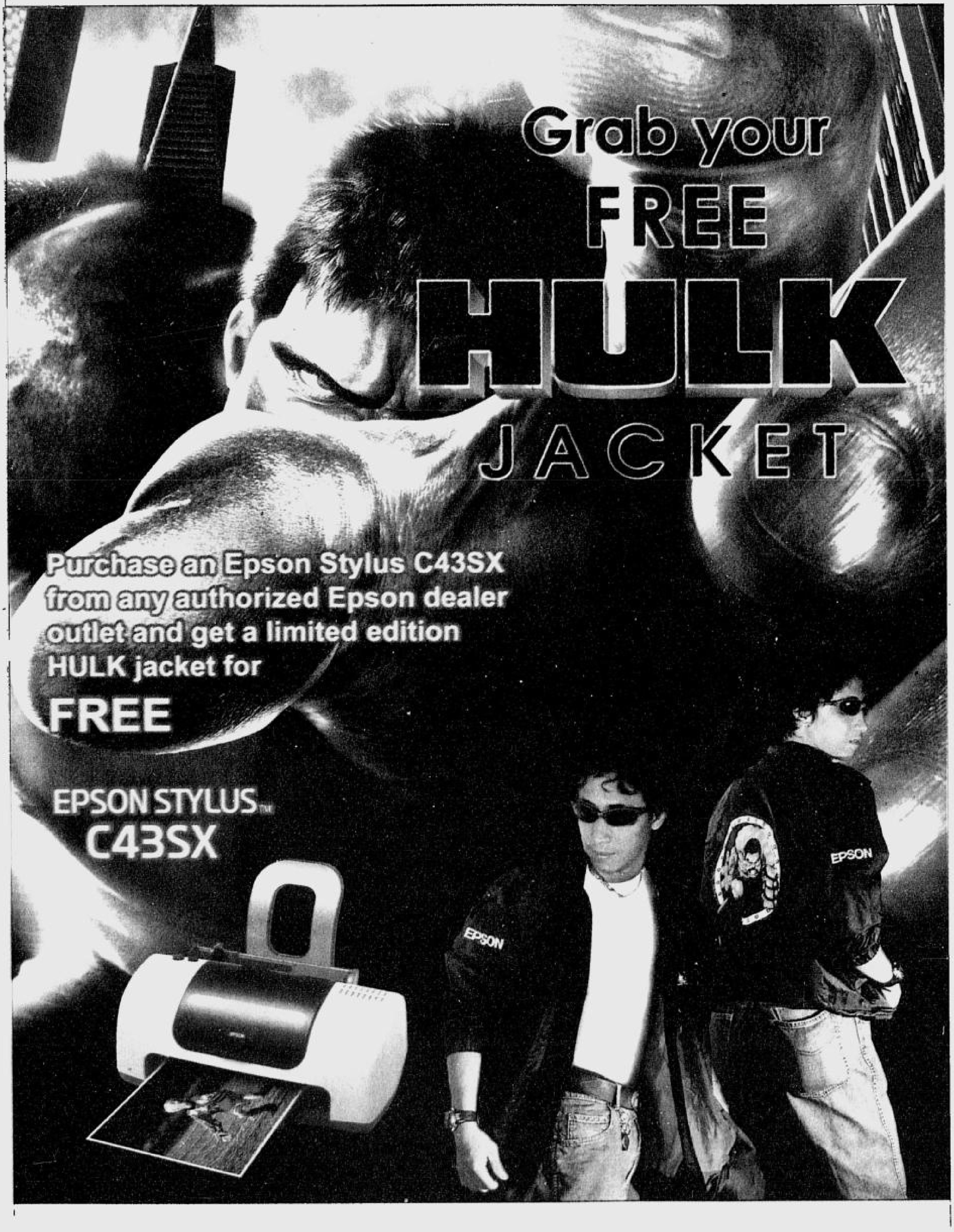
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Promo Period: June 06 to September 06, 2003

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1465, Series of 2003

LIFESTYLE

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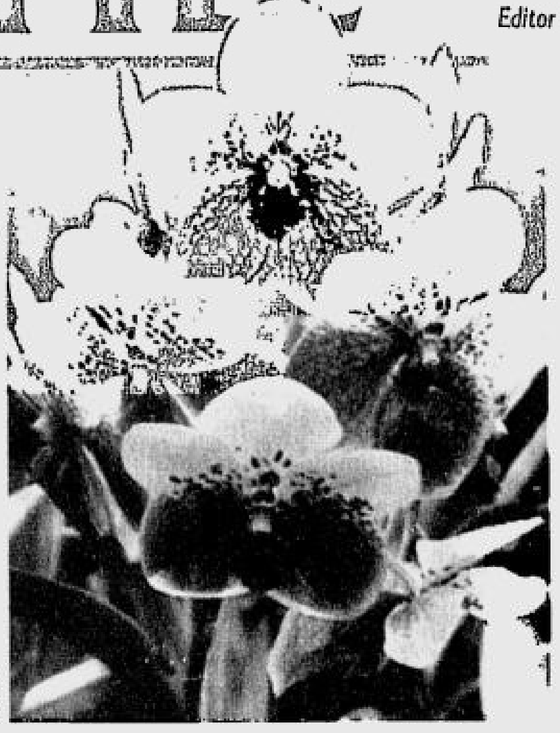
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Calamba garden jumps gun on orchid show


WALING-WALING in full bloom

High humidity and rains have made 'Waling-waling' bloom before the start of its flowering season

By Tita V. Giron

"MY *WALING-WALING* orchids just cannot wait for the forthcoming flower and garden show of the Philippine Orchid Society (POS). They started blooming profusely over the weekend and their flowers will wilt days before the show," Vic Chin grumbled.

His *Waling-waling* and other Vanda orchids were regular features and constant winners in previous mid-year shows of POS. This year, however, his prize-winning selections bloomed too early for the show Aug. 29-Sept. 8.

Traditionally, mid-August is the peak blooming season of the native orchids, famous for siring the best orchid hybrids in the world. "The very high humidity interspersed with rains and sunshine last June and July triggered the earlier-than-usual blooming," Chin, an orchid collector and owner of garden nurseries in Laguna, theorized.

He explained that it took 35 days for buds to mature and another 10-15 days for all the flowers to open. Right now, his *Waling-walings* are blooming profusely.

Waling-waling is just one of many orchid varieties Chin grows in a well-kept nursery at the back of his family's restaurant, Ding-Hao Chinese Cuisine, in Calamba. He also raises cattleyas, other orchids, ferns, and a wide variety of popular garden plants, both flowering and ornamental. Recently, he opened two shops at the Robelle garden center also in Calamba.

Thieves' favorite

For very obvious reasons, the blooming *Waling-waling* orchids are not displayed at the Robelle stores. The highly prized orchids are prime targets of thieves, the bane of collectors and sellers. A blooming specimen will easily sell for P1,500.

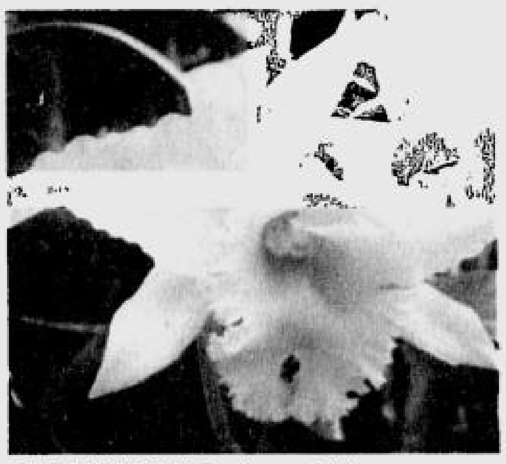
Chin, as well as other orchid hobbyists, starts raising his *Waling-waling* from young plants. "They are cheaper and the challenge of raising them up to maturity is too hard to resist," Chin explained. It takes three to five years of tender loving care to raise the special orchids.

What makes them so special? Chin said, "These are native orchids of the Philippines that are highly sought because they impart quality breeding traits that are used by orchid breeders."

The beautiful native orchids, in fact, have been hunted and spirited away to foreign markets since 1880. According to botanical historians, orchid hunting was the obsession of horticulture firms in Europe. Expeditions

CALAMBA/ D2

AN OLD favorite of orchid collectors, Cattleya Bowringiana blooms profusely in Vic Chin's nursery.


OLD-FAVORITE Cattleya with lemon colored flowers

WHAT'S ON at Robinsons

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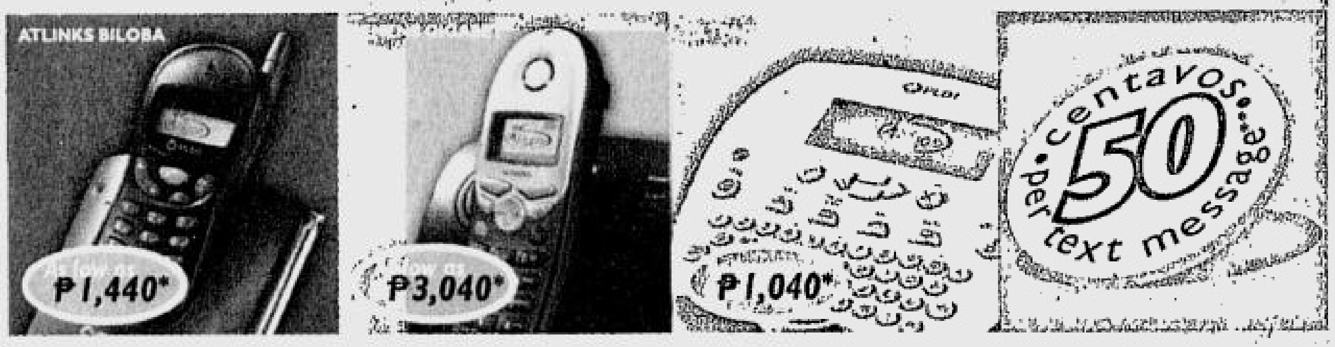

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VIC Chin shows off his awards-studded Cattleya collection.

WALING-WALING collection of Vic Chin

Calamba garden jumps gun on orchid show

From page D1

were sent all over the world in search of exotic orchids, and the Philippines was a rich hunting ground.

The discovery of the *Waling-waling* by a European deep in the forests of Mindanao is well-known to orchid collectors. Versions of the story have become jungle adventures. One saga goes: "From Cotabato, the orchid hunters crossed rivers and swamps and penetrated the thick jungle. They eluded hostile tribes and their spears, thick mosquito swarms..."

Beautiful sight

According to the story, the European orchid hunters spent the night in a tree house, some 50 feet above the ground, to be safe from the stealthy attacks of hostile tribes. "Having bedded down for the night in the lofty perch... the European was awakened the next morning by the sun's rays." He glanced through the leafy bower and there, almost within arm's reach, was the *Waling-waling*. It was described as "a beautiful erect spray of four-inch wide, pink with purple-brown fleck flowers... Vanda Sanderiana!"

In Europe, the *Waling-waling* was named after Sander, owner of the firm that introduced the exotic find to the world of horticulture. Chroniclers of the era considered the event as "Sander's greatest triumph..." And the orchid was described as "the grandest novelty introduced for years."

Another *Waling-waling* historian wrote, "One of the collected plants had three spikes (the stalk bearing the flowers) with 47 flowers and buds, 34 being open at one time, thus presenting the appearance of a giant bouquet."

Collectors sought the exotic orchids and breeders used them for producing beautiful hybrids. To date, the *Waling-waling* is still used by breeders. Unfortunately; most of the high-priced beautiful hybrids are bred in other countries like Hawaii, Singapore and Thailand.

Many of the *Waling-waling* are now in the collection of POS members. Chin has some of the best, no doubt. Although most of his *Waling-waling* will not make it to the POS midyear show, Chin is still hopeful. "I will have a few late bloomers, though, and I hope they are good enough to exhibit."

Chin's cellular phone number is 0919-6037785.

SANTAN blooms complement the flowers in the orchid collection of Vic Chin.

ORCHID alliance has dainty flowers.

CATTLEYA alliance with terete leaves has fragrant flowers.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3197 Series of 2003

Beauty fair offers big product discounts

GOINGS ON

STA. LUCIA East Department Store features a beauty fair until Aug. 31. Splash Extraderm, Godiva, Swallow, Gatsby, Goody and Groovy, Silka, Jergens, Nivea, Avon, Ever Bilena, Bench, CK and Davidoff products are available at big discounts.

THE CENTER for Family Ministries (Cefam) will conduct "Pep Teens Parenting Workshop" on Aug. 16 and 23, 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., at Cefam, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC. Call 4264289/92.

REUNION. The University of Santo Tomas College of Commerce Alumni Foundation, Inc. invites the UST College of Commerce alumni batches 1933 to 2003 to its 70th grand alumni homecoming-reunion at Millennium Ballroom, Manila Hotel. Call Eric Gallardo at 8449360 to 70; Fely Chua-Dy, 5215518 to 20; Dindo Sanchez, 5321487; and Brando Cousart, 8262957.

FUN DAY. Former seminarians from all over the country will have a day of fun on Aug. 16 at San Carlos Seminary in Makati. Call Joeman Alba at 2912089 or Abby Miguel, 6323594.

RECITAL. Baritone Joseph David Legaspi will present a recital tonight at UP Abelardo Hall, 7 p.m.

FESTIVAL. The Philippine Coconut Authority will spearhead the celebration of the 2nd National Coconut Festival and 2003 National Coconut Week on Aug. 24-30 at PCA Compound, Diliman, QC.

WORKSHOP. Businessmaker Academy offers workshop on Creative Balloon Arrangements for Fun and Profit today at Tektite. Call 6874445/6873416/6874645.

THE LICEO de San Pedro (high school) Batch 1988 is currently updating its alumni directory. Call Pamela Acuña-Capiz at 0917-5325136, 7789309, e-mail pamski71@yahoo.com, or visit liceans88 at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ liceans88.

FESTIVAL. The 18th *Kadayawan sa Dabaw* Festival will be held Aug. 18-24 in Davao City. On Aug. 18-19, indigenous games and community sports will be held.

SALE. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall will hold its August Shower Sale on Aug. 15, 16 and 17. Win Your Dreams raffle promo will hold its second draw on Sept. 6.

SEMINAR. The Math in Sales Management seminar by Meeting Points International will be held Aug. 19-20 at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati. Call 8955735/8952363.

CONCERT. Shangri-La Plaza Mall launches Streetscape. A Latin concert series will usher in the celebration today and tomorrow. Call 6337851.

SEMINAR. The Japan Foundation Manila Office will hold a Japanese Language Teachers' seminar-workshop on Aug. 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at JICA-Net Philippine Satellite, 4/F National Engineering Center Bldg., Osmeña cor. Agoncillo Sts., UP, QC. Call 8116155 to 58.

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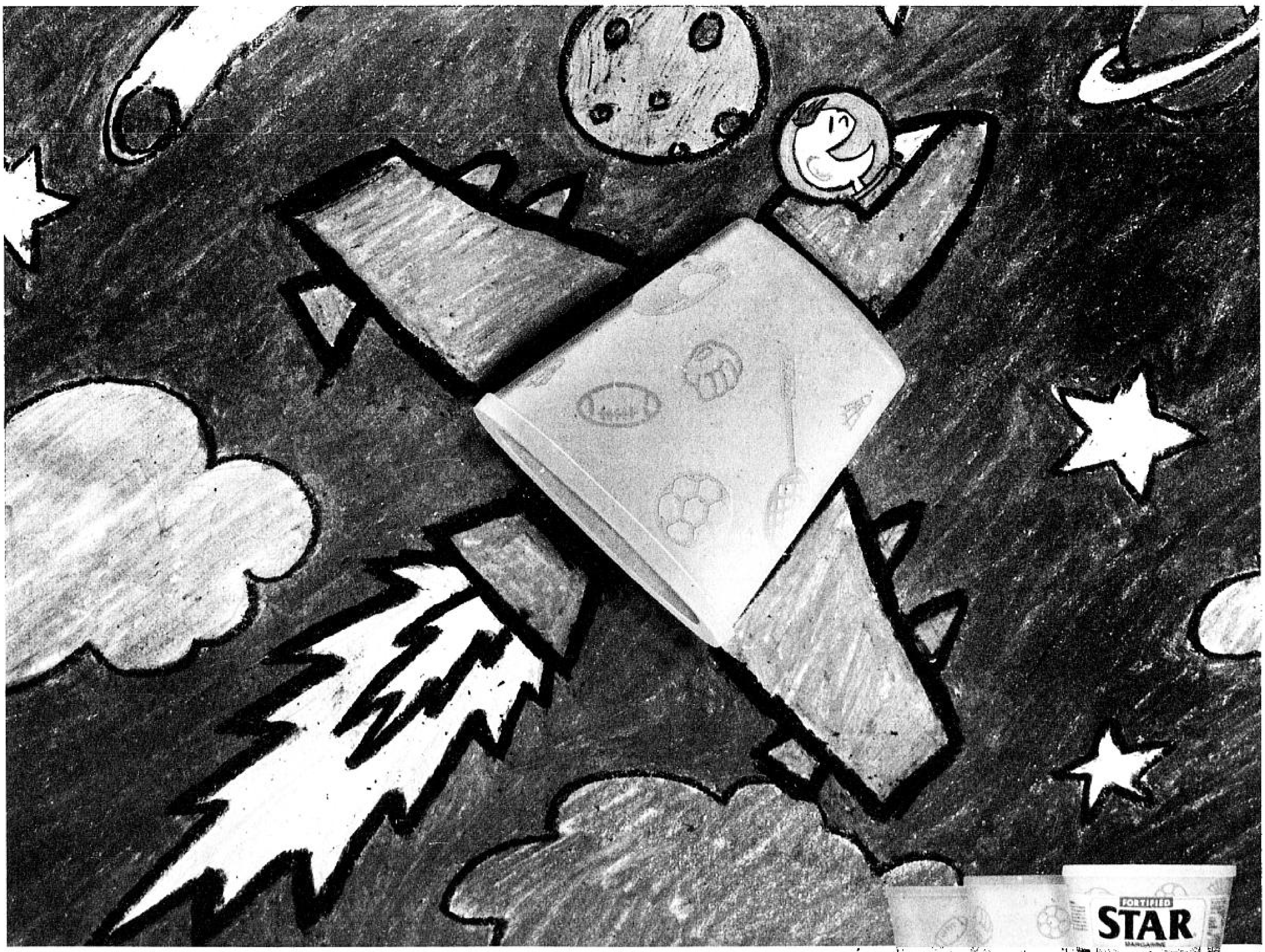

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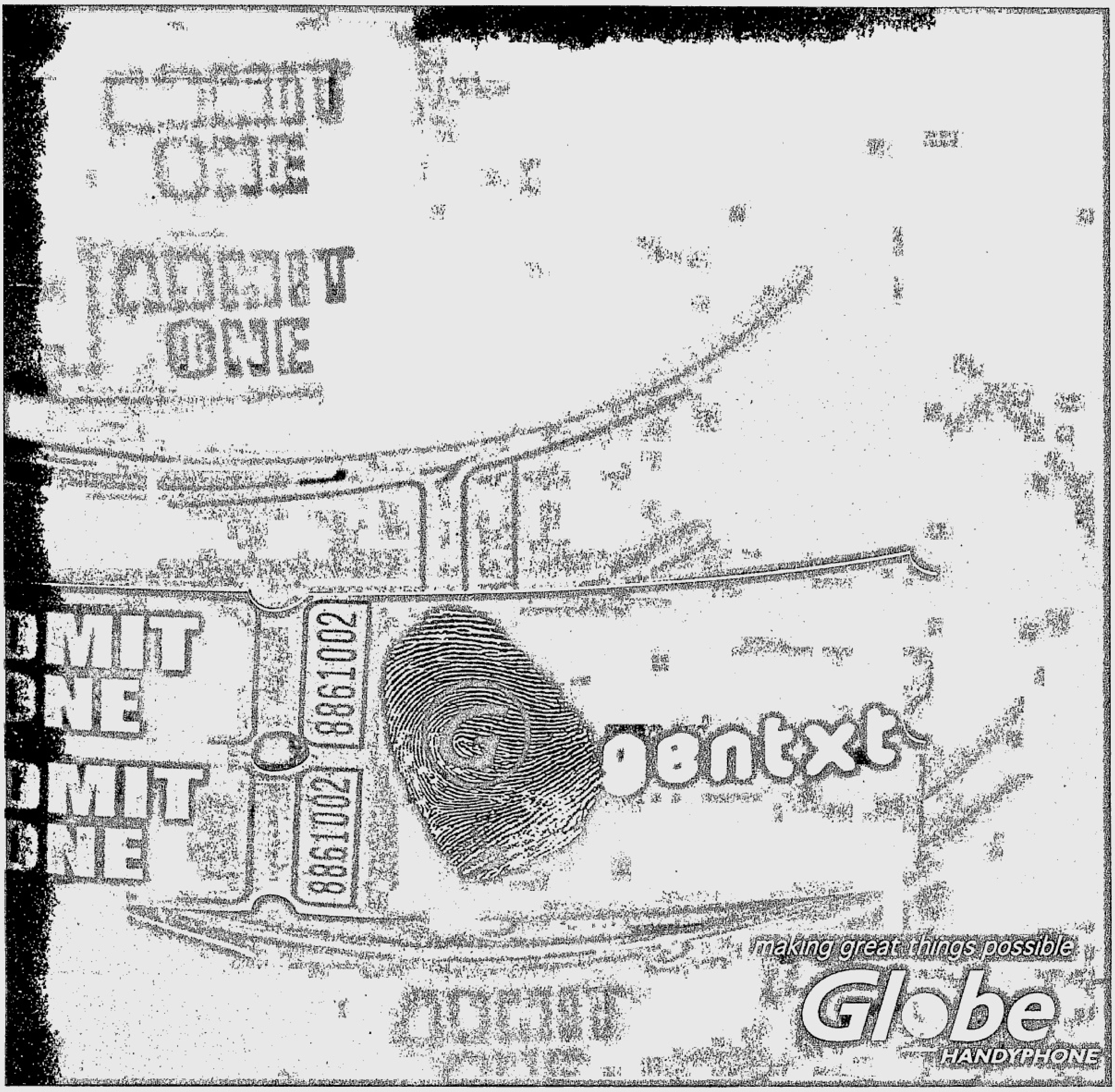

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ENTERTAINMENT

Aug 8 **ESKAPO @ UP MANILA**
6pm **Little Theater**
A night of freedom featuring Rivermaya and Kamikaze.
Free admission.

Aug 8, 15, 22 & 29 Fri **Vibe Fridays @ WASABI Bistro and Bar featuring DJ Steve Mills & DJ Aryan**
10pm Come bounce with us at Manila's number one Friday night!
Gentxters 19 and above get in for free (subject to space limitations and dress code).

Aug 9, 13 & 20 **Gentxt Nights @ DISH, Rockwell Power Plant**
9pm Move to the Gentxt groove in our weekly concerts!
Aug 9: Nyoy Volante with Mannos & South Border
Aug 13: Jimmy Bondoc & Nina with Essence
Aug 20: Jimmy Bondoc with Essence & Freestyle
Flash your Gentxt card and Globe Handyphone to get free entrance and a free drink.
VIP area for the first 100 Gentxters.

Aug 11 Mon **FINDING NEMO Premiere @ Onstage, Greenbelt 1**
7:30pm Dive into this stunning underwater adventure from Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studios.
First 400 Gentxters to flash their Gentxt card and Globe Handyphone at the venue at 6pm get one free ticket each.

Aug 15 & 31 **GLOBE presents the 2003 DMC/Technics World DJ Mixing Championship**
8pm Aug 15: NCR-Manila Elims @ Purple Ostrich Disco, Island Cove Cavite
Aug 31: Grand Finals @ Hard Rock Cafe Makati
Free entrance for Gentxters.

Aug 15 Fri **Gentxt Bounce @ Brix Sports Cafe Ayala Cebu**
8pm Join the provincial tour of HipHop masters MC Dash, DJ Kimozave and The 63 Squad.
Gentxters get 20% off entrance.

Aug 20 Wed **Unplugged @ The Patio The SITE, Cagayan de Oro City**
7pm Experience acoustic music at its finest – for FREE!
Flash your Gentxt card and Globe Handyphone to get free entrance.

Aug 20 & 21 Wed & Thurs **Gentxt @ Kadayawan Rizal Promenade, Davao City**
9pm Gentxt takes Davao by storm!
Aug 20: HipHop/RnB Night featuring DJ Mars Miranda and DJ Teeve
Aug 21: Deep House Set featuring DJ Joe Henson with Mike Constantino of Latin Corrazon
Free entrance for Gentxters.

Aug 22 & 23 Fri & Sat **AKAFELLAS Live in Concert @ The Forum, The Podium, Ortigas**
9pm Enjoy music at its purest form with this one-of-a-kind singing group!
First 15 Gentxters to flash their Gentxt card and Globe Handyphone at the venue at 8pm get one free ticket each.
First 50 Gentxters get a souvenir photo of the AKAFELLAS and are invited to join the "Meet & Greet" session after the show for autograph signing and picture taking. VIP seating area also available.

Aug 27 Wed **FREESTYLE Fiesta Concert @ The SITE, Cagayan de Oro City**
7pm The country's hottest showband turns up the heat in Cagayan.
First 100 Gentxters to flash their Gentxt card and Globe Handyphone get 50% off tickets.

SPORTS

Aug to Oct **Globe @ UAAP**
Experience basketball action LIVE to get special treats and cool deals at the Globe booth!
Free face painting and other fun activities for Gentxters during Araneta weekend games.

Aug 22–31 **JVC Open Badminton Championships**
Swing and smash your way into one of the biggest badminton tournaments in the country!
Aug 22-24: PSC Badminton Hall, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex
Aug 25-31: Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center
Exclusive Gentxt badminton clinic from 10am-12nn on Aug 29 to 31 for the first 20 Gentxters that flash their Gentxt card and Globe Handyphone at the venue.
Winners of the Juniors 14 & under and 18 & under categories will each win one mobile phone from Globe in addition to the cash prizes.

Aug 27 Fri **Gentxt University Cheering Competition @ Silliman University, Dumaguete City**
7:30am Celebrate the spirit of school competition with Gentxt!

B 1 of US! Text JOIN to 2277

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*FREE Membership extended to August 31, 2003.

EYECATCHING Baby Arenas chose a classic black gown with ostrich feathers with a touch of emerald earrings for extras.

Birthday girl Baby Arenas sang 'An Affair to Remember' and had everyone intrigued

Oh, Baby, Baby, my Baby, Baby

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by
Alex Van Hagen
on Kodak Max

SHE DID it again! Our *palanga*, Baby Arenas, the porcelain beauty with a heart of gold, gave her guests an evening of a lifetime! Her birthday bash will be a hard act to follow.

Baby was superbly assisted by workasonic young whiz **Marilen Guisande**, together with Baby's beauty-and-brains, Harvard-bound daughter, **Rachel**, looking wow in an Armani gown.

The elegant Mandarin Oriental, Baby's favorite hotel, under the fab stewardship of GM **Helmut Gaisberger** and PR director **Charisse Chuidian**, pulled out all stops to impress the guests.

Entering the hall, guests smelled the soothing scent of lavender. They were led to a path of white silk strewn with red rose petals. They couldn't miss the huge bouquet of red roses prominently placed under the canopy of the entrance, where the elite packed the ballroom. Thick bunches of red roses decked each candlelit table. It was romance at its best.

The ballroom was steaming with the creamiest of cream from all sectors of high society—politics, arts, media and yes, *naturellement*, typical of any La Baby party, even the ecclesia (nuns and priests were all over the place).

Vice-President **Teofisto Guingona** led the guests, arriving fashionably on time and staying on till the end.

Among the guests were dashing and debonair Finance Secretary **Jose Isidro Camacho**, who was with his wife, the Southern belle of style and class, **Kim Camacho**. The legislative pack was led by the handsome couple, Sen. **Vicente Sotto** and **Helen Gamboa**. Also there were former senator and ambassador **Ernesto Maceda**; the ever-bubbly **Gracie Glory Go**; the feisty **Jake Macasaet** with his wife **Karen**; National Artist **Alejandro Roces**; INQUIRER's good-looking **Ramon Tulfo**; vivacious **Nelly Sindayen**; **Babes Romualdez**; **Tony Katigbak**; TV personality

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Words to the Wise #1
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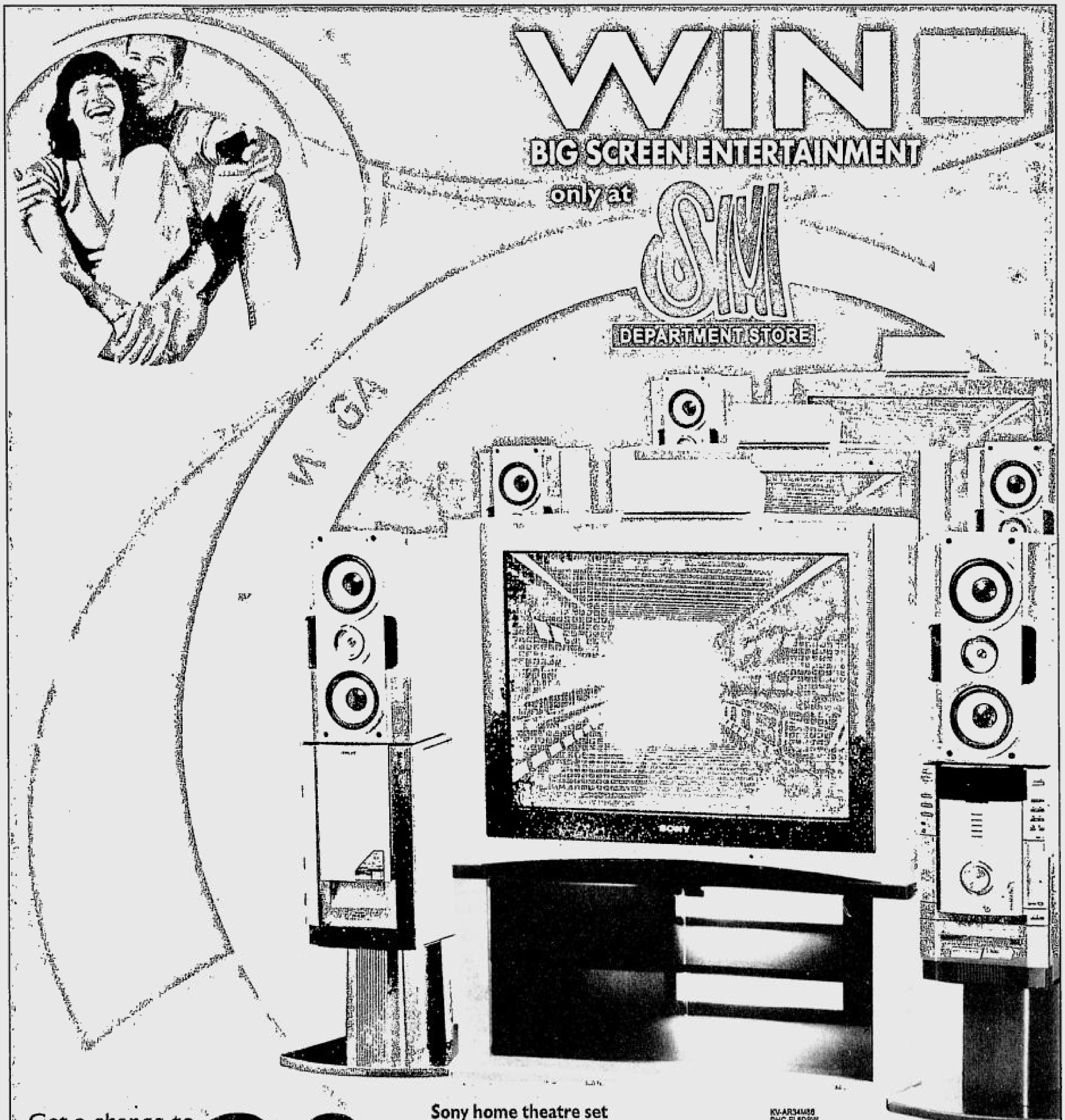
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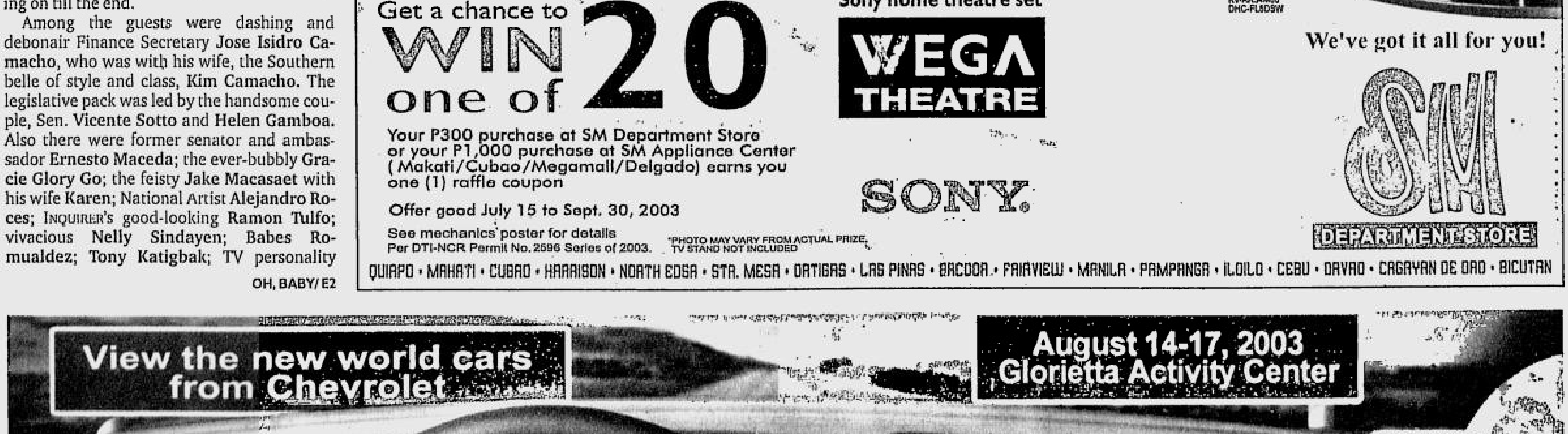
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Oh, Baby, Baby, my Baby, Baby

THE GANG of three: A triple treat from the celebrators. Glamorous Michelle Antonio, stylish Emily Lopez, and everyone's favorite congresswoman, Cynthia Villar

From page E1

Cito Beltran and his attractive Dutch wife, **Karen**; sculptor **Ramon Orlina**; and architects **Chito Antonio** and **Gerry Contreras.**

Needless to say, dahlings, women of style came in full fashionable force: **Gina de Venecia, Inday del Rosario, Tingting Cojuangco, Diana Jean Lopez, Edith Rabat, Criselda Lontok** and **Justa Tantoco**—all in their designer gowns and finest jewelry.

The 60-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of **Rodel Colmenar**, no less, played classical pieces, Broadway hits and popular movie themes. The dynamic interpretation of Czardas by violinist **Jay Cayuca**, Baby's scholar and prodigy, had the guests asking for more.

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Her expressive performance prompted **Teddy Benigno** to say, "I could have fallen in love with her if I heard her sing this way 25 years ago."

Baby looked elegant in an **Aureo Alonzo** black chiffon gown with ostrich feathers wrapped around the bodice, interestingly sans glitters, which made her creamy complexion more distinct.

True to the time-honored rule of simple elegance, Baby wore only a pair of jelly-green emerald and sparkling diamond chandelier earrings, the same one, she told us, she wore at her birthday party 10 years ago in the same hotel.

In her welcome remarks, she said, "My party is my token of appreciation for all my friends who have been there for me." She also enjoined her guests "to please continue helping the country in securing a bright future for all of us."

It was such a great party that one guest said, "The country should be run like this party—with precision, coordination and purpose."

Spotting them

The wet weekend didn't stop Manille's night owls from partying.

Last Friday night, Dream Bar had Hollywood star **Lou Diamond Phillips**, who looked less muscular in person, and the beautiful **Tia Carrere**, was really an eyecatcher, but looked top-and-hip-heavier than her image on screen and television. She was very cozy with her American husband and VP for Columbia TriStar **Fritz Friedman**. Eye-sore bodyguards guarded the celebrities like Fort Knox.

At Nuvo, vivacious and chic **Cherrie del**

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RICO Tantoco, southern lady Kim Camacho with her husband, the dynamic Finance Secretary Lito Camacho, and Australian Ambassador Christian Krepela

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Oh, Baby, Baby, my Baby, Baby

THE GANG of three: A triple treat from the celebrators. Glamorous Michelle Antonio, stylish Emily Lopez, and everyone's favorite congresswoman, Cynthia Villar

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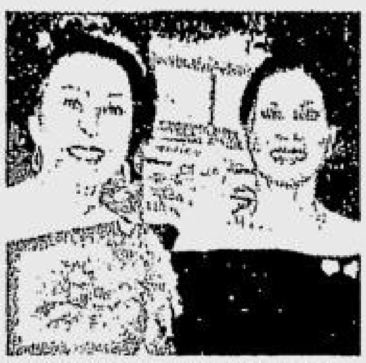
POWER-HOT namedroppables: Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Rep. Willy Villarama, Sen. Vicente Sotto and Raul Concepcion

RACHEL Arenas with her pals, Marilen and Tony Guisande

MALAYA publisher Jake Macasaet with his wife Karen



GLAMOROUS style icons Inday del Rosario and Tingting Cojuangco

WOMEN of substance: Gina de Venecia, Helen Gamboa-Sotto and Justa Tantoco

RAMONCITO Arenas

CHITO Antonio

HAIL, hail the gang of southern pals: Rene Tiongco, Air Philippines' prime asset Patty Chiong with *moi* and renowned designer Edgar Allan

THE CELEBRATOR with Preciosa Soliven and Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti

ng good. It must be love. It
ove is the son of an influen-
ician. The scion will be vis-
week, *palanggas*.

and **Carlo Antonio** were
vel and real estate with
Lavarro and his wife, head-
o.

photography and camera
itect **Victor Consunji** and
ographer, **Alex van Hagen.**
ork-harder man, **Patrick**
aving a fun weekend with

iful **Patricia Panlilio Cu-**
me out to party. She had
ome with her son **Quintin,**
a month from San Paolo,
ttended a children's inter-
illage camp.

ngri-La Makati lobby, spot-
ere society ladies who had
ttended the joint birthday
f Guimaras Gov. **Emily Re-**
Lopez, Las Piñas Rep. **Cyn-**
Villar and **Michelle Anto-**

ez, a former fashion mod-
oked like she had just
d out of an issue of Vogue
zine.

ll-loved lawmaker Villar
d really cool in a pastel
n chartreuse cocktail outfit
lie Hans.

sie Daza was among the
wishers; she had just at-
d an afternoon tea party at
olo Club where former
y queen **Edith Nakpil Ra-**
lebrated her birthday.

o there were **Gina de**
ia, Daisy Payumo and
g Dragon.

anwhile, Wasabi flash-
d to the glory days of Mars
with big fish **Domini**
ro and his gorgeous wife,
e **Quintas;** and Stores
list prince **Mike Huang**
is girlfriend, **Aimee Muril-**

and elegant Southern
s **Amanda Lu-Yen** talked
with party boy **Pepper**
nkee and her cousin, gor-
-looker **Cacay Moras.**

original Mars pack—**Tito**
pat, Jay Server and **Ken-**
Tuazon—were there for
stalgia trip.

, it was elbow to elbow, hip
and derriere to derriere.
ummer of the night was
ell known socialite who
in the men's room
). Two of her pals rushed
ked her up in a huff, and
ed her out. Her laced
rto Cavalli blouse was
etely drenched in her
. Oh well, even the rich get
i bala?

d-looking eligible dude
nd Castañeda was with
ng of Tequila shooters hav-
last. Hardworking **Carmi-**
via was with her latest con-
escort, good-looking Sin-
an **Jeff Leow**, chef of Her-
Hotel. They stuck to each
like Siamese twins all
long.

u know, Maurice," this busi-
nagnate, who has political
ctions with the Malacañang
ld me, "there is never any-
new in the newspapers
lays. All the same things are
ppening, only to different
. It's a good thing we can
with the lifestyle and movie
s of the dailies."

en, Sir!

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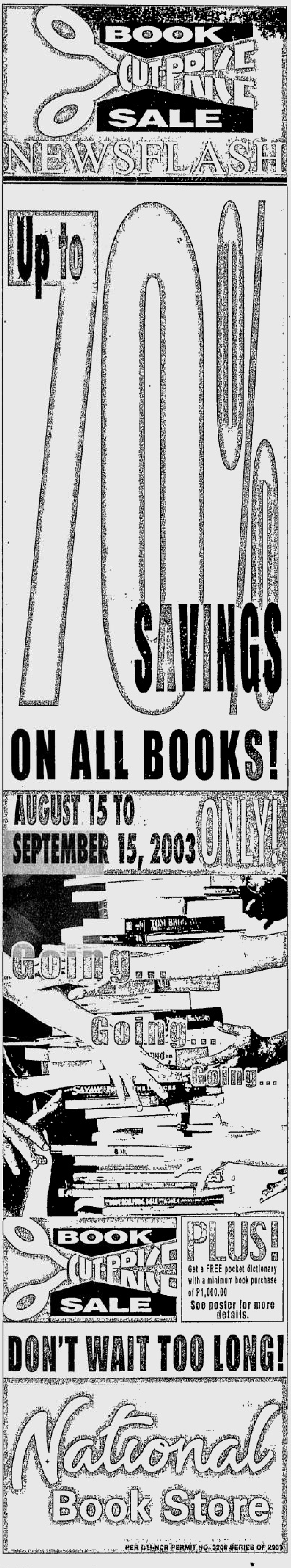

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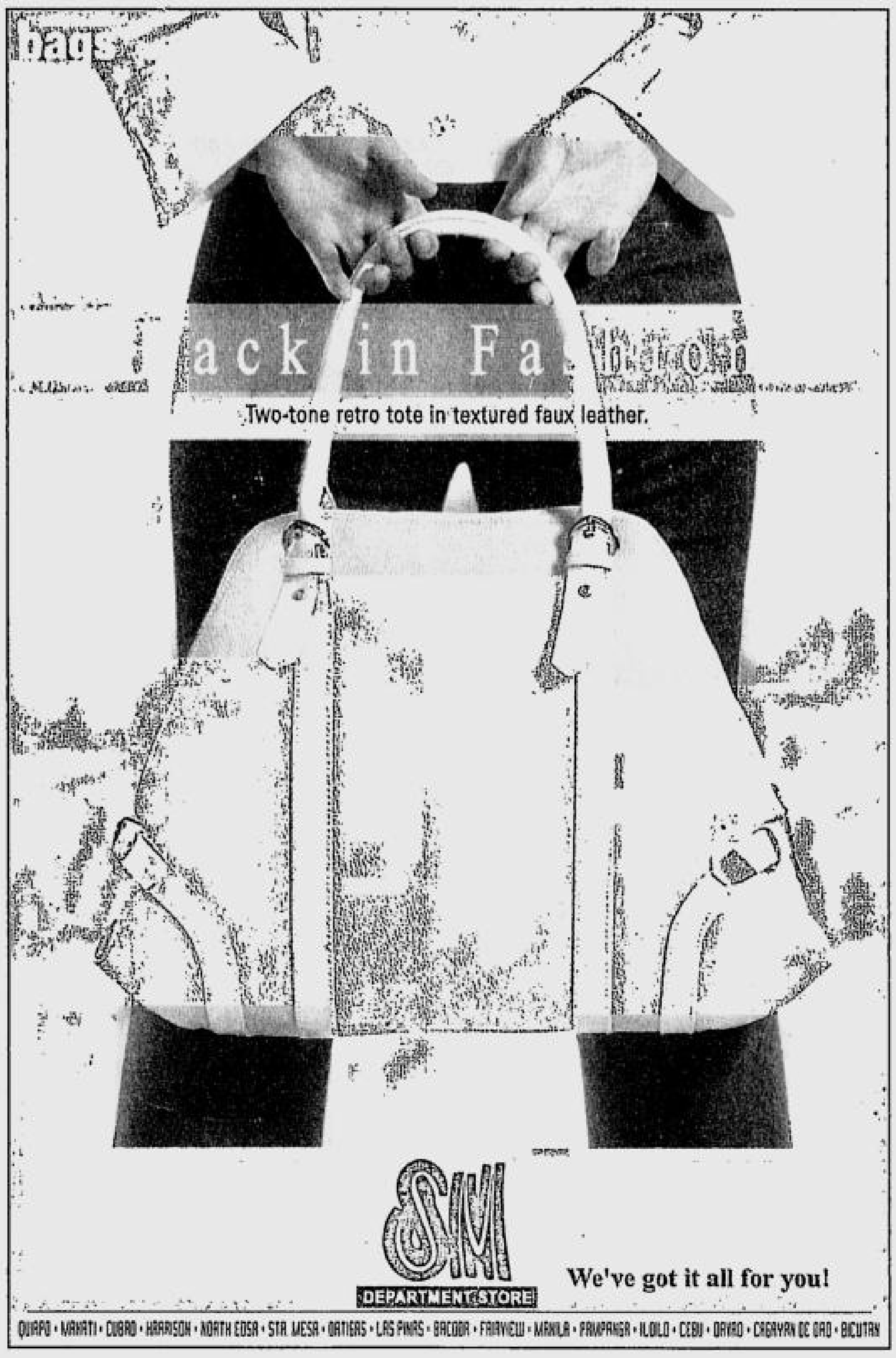

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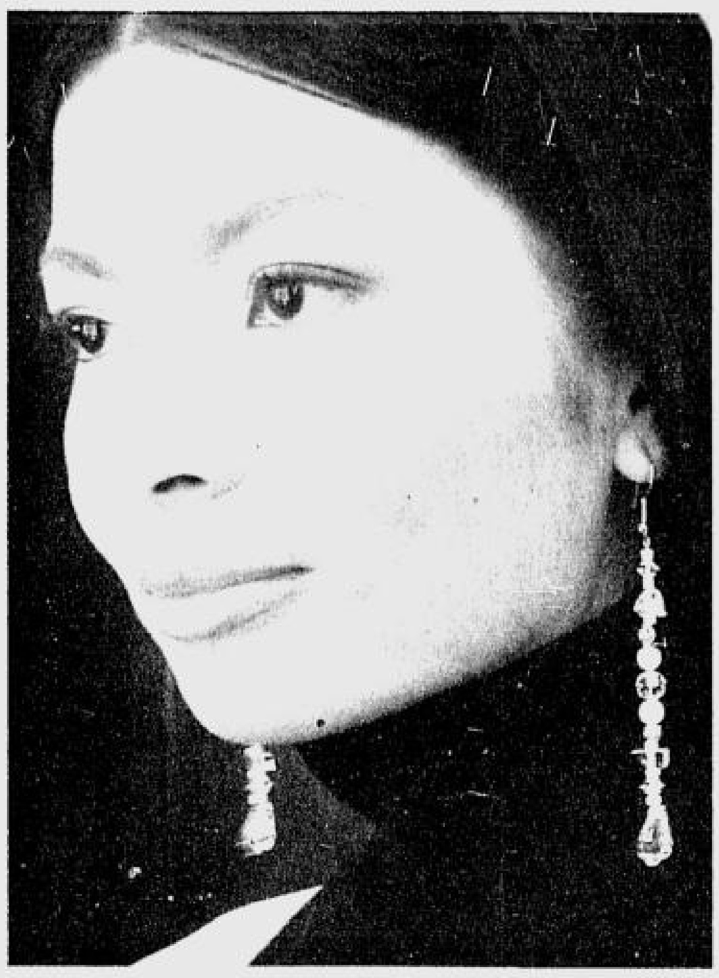
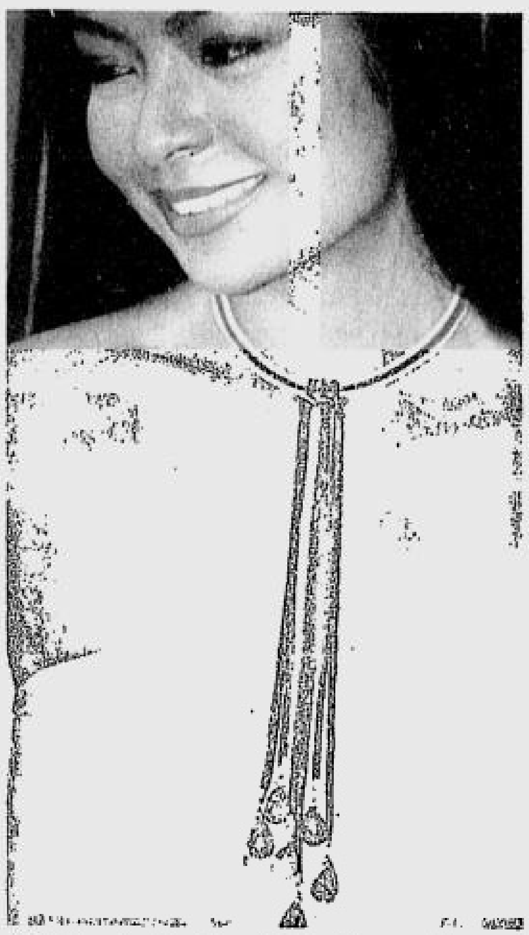

DROP earrings of pearls and Swarovski crystals with briolet ends


NUDE and red leather lariat with cornelian briolets

Tweetie's jewelry and Rissa's style tips

Two good friends and catwalk divas share insights on fashion accessories and stuff

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I WOULD appreciate it if you could feature Tweetie de Leon and her jewelry designs in your PDI column. I, too, am very fond of bead jewelry, and I read somewhere that she does it with her own hands. Maybe you can ask her how she goes about designing a piece and other such questions?

Tweetie and I have been friends and soul sisters for more than 15 years now, and I've always admired her for her creativity and keen eye for detail, among other things.

Back when we were modeling, she would always have some hobby or craft. One time, it was cross-stitching; another time, flower arranging. She was very good with her hands, and it seemed that whatever she went into, she ended up doing very well.

Tweetie got started around four to five years ago when she read a kiddie craft's book. She made necklaces for her daughter using plastic beads until she began experimenting with fun glass beads, fresh water pearls and semi-precious stones.

She gets her design inspirations from the clothes she wears. Depending on the neckline of the outfit, Tweetie will design a style. Then based on the color, she will choose the complementing stones.

She says she goes by her moods, designing nonstop for days and other times not touching her stones and beads.

Mostly Tweetie uses citrine, cornelian, agate, crystals, turquoise, corals, and sometimes peridot and aquamarine. "Colors are fun," she says, "and I'm not one to take fashion very seriously."

What sets Tweetie's products work apart from the usual stuff one can find in bazaars and *tiangges* is the quality. "Every piece went through my own hands," she says. Her pieces are never too busy, no matter how colorful or chunky they are. "They still maintain clean lines and will never overpower. They just accentuate," she says.

So as not to be influenced by anyone else's tastes, Tweetie says she doesn't check out the competition. "I don't know if that's good or bad," she adds. "But I go by my own instincts and preferences."

Tweetie wants to transform her craft from a hobby to a trade. "If I had the time and the opportunity, I wouldn't mind taking formal studies in jewelry design. Sometime soon, I will also be entering the retail market," she says.

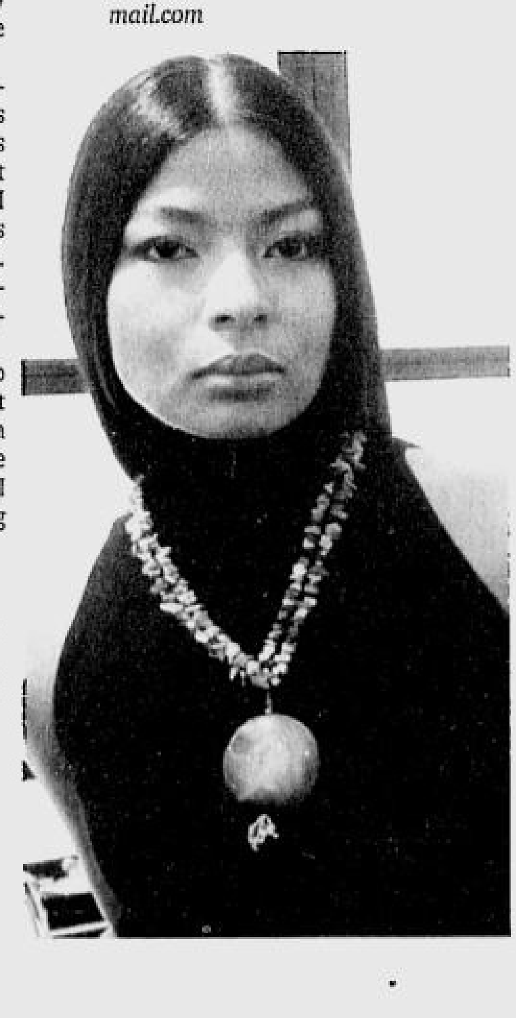
To order Tweetie's jewelry, call 0917-9917600.

Style tips

For this column, Rissa Samson, who is president of the Professional Models Association of the Philippines, has not only agreed to model some of Tweetie's creations but also shares her top 10 style tips:

1. Never ignore a garment just because the label is unfamiliar.
2. A garment's true value lies not in its label but in its workmanship.
3. Never buy shoes that are not comfortable. By the time the blisters heal, the season will be half over anyway.
4. Many women think that to show off a lot of skin is to be sexy. You can be sexy even when you're all covered up. You have to leave an air of mystery for the men.
5. Versatile hair should be like lipstick. The style should change depending on the outfit, mood and occasion.
6. Your hairstyle should be like a little black dress. You must be able to dress it up or down in an infinite number of ways.
7. Jeans are a woman's secret weapon. They can be as deadly as the sexiest stilettos.
8. I can never resist a beautifully bold necklace. For me, it should be the star of a relatively simple outfit, with other pieces playing a supporting role.
9. Vintage stores are like style museums. You can learn a thing or two about style even if you don't care to buy.
10. Remember, incredible bargains are worthless if you can't wear them at all.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com


NECKLACE of assorted chips with agate pendant

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS
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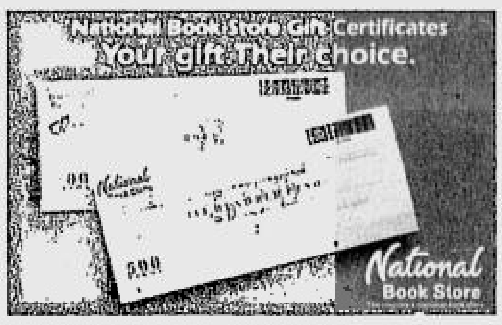
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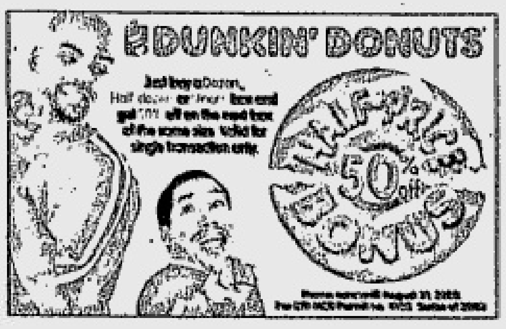
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A night of firsts

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THINGS really have a way of falling into place. One just has to know the moment, seize it and go with its flow.

Nowhere was this more true than in the **Joe Salazar** Retrospective Exhibit. It didn't come out of any elaborate scheme. In a way it just came to be.

My friend **Joey Panlilio** got it right away as he dropped in on us at the ABS-CBN studio gallery the night before the exhibit opening last week. He saw our crew fixing the mannequins and blurted out, "And to think Joe never asked for this. Never demanded. But it all came to him."

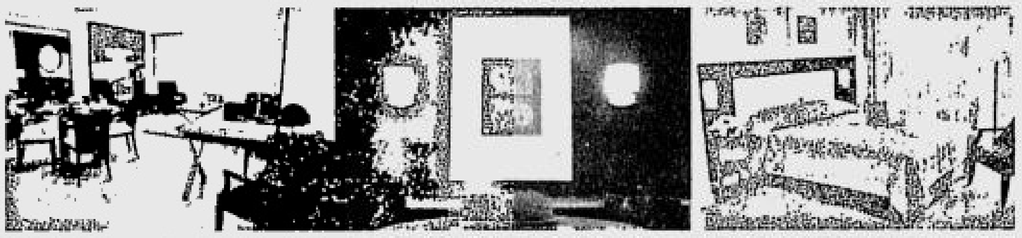
He was so right.

Shortly after midnight on the eve of the opening, Joe came to the studio gallery with his 17 gowns to be mounted. We walked around the vast space, watched **John Batalla**, **Ariel Lozada**'s friend and lighting director, set the spotlights. As he and Metro managing editor **Carlo Tadiar** decided which gown to put on what mannequin, he turned to me disbelieving, "Can you believe this? I can't. And to think we never planned this. You know, Thelma, this is all God's hand. He meant it to be."

If I didn't lead our magazine staff in organizing it, I'd think Joe was exaggerating things or even hallucinating, seeing how he was close to giggling that night. But he wasn't.

It would be a night of firsts: as a fashion design retrospective organized by a publishing company (ABS-CBN Publishing), in collaboration with the INQUIRER and Bench; as an impromptu gathering of three generations of

A NIGHT/ F2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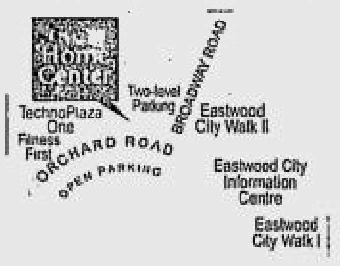

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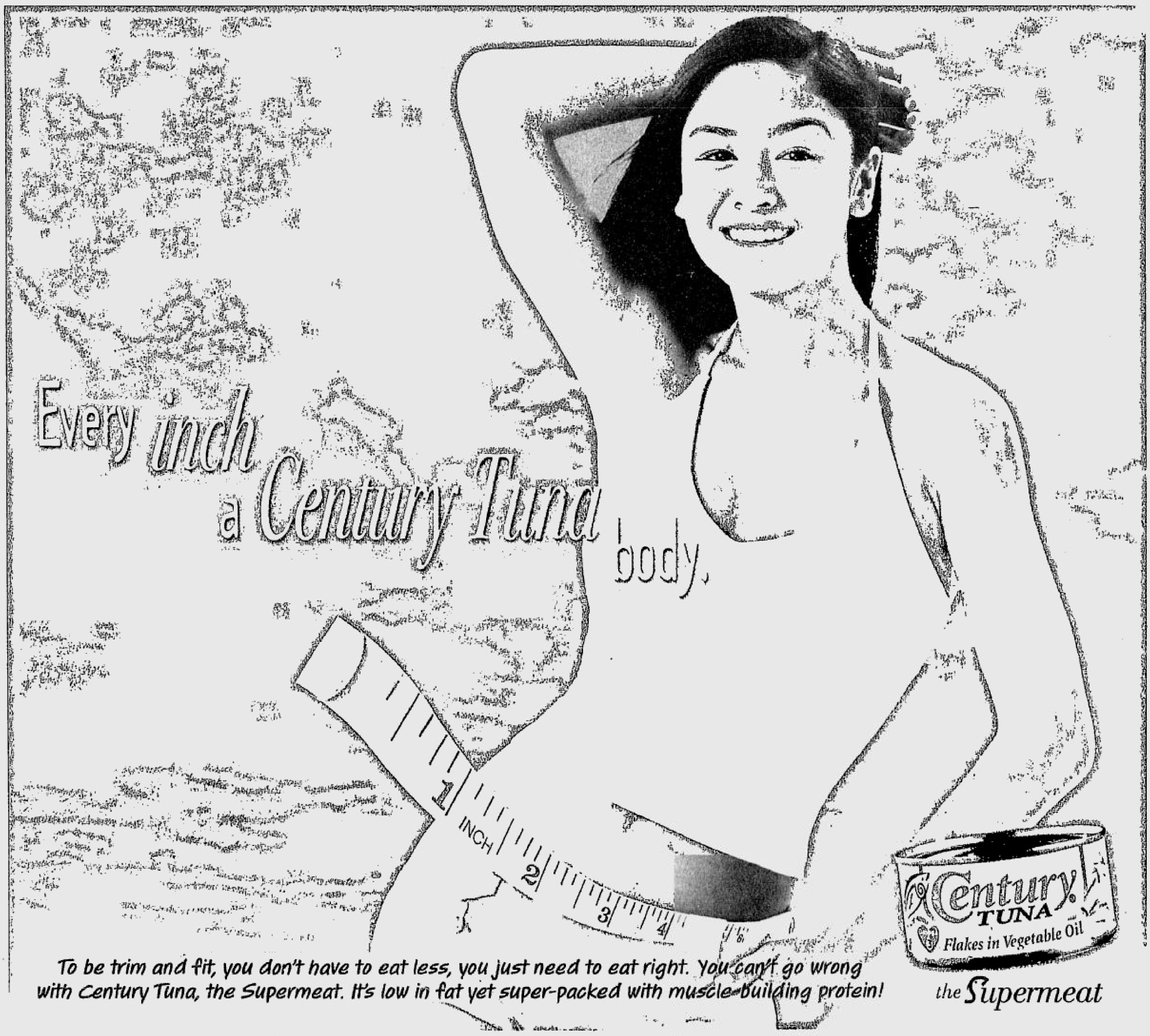

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the Supermeat

DESIGNERS ALL. Three generations of the country's top couturiers gather to pay tribute to a master designer. Among them are Inno Sotto, Ernest Santiago, Larrie Silva, Rusty Lopez, Larry Leviste, Mike de la Rosa, Nolie Hans, Edgar San Diego, Lulu Tan Gan, Toni Galang, Tonichi Nocum, Jojie Lloren, Vic Barba, Paul Cabral, Randy Ortiz, Fanny Serrano, Danny de la Cuesta, Jing Chua and JC Buendia.

A night of firsts

From page F1

fashion designers; and as social trivia, the reconciliation of **Imelda Cojuangco** and **Teyet Pascual**.

God's hand

Came opening night last Aug. 8 as guests began to fill up the place, God's hand became more evident. It didn't rain in a week of storm. Guests made the commute all the way to the ELJ Communication Center (ABS-CBN) in Quezon City. Our guest of honor, Joe's longtime client and friend, **Imelda (Meldy) Cojuangco** wasn't only feeling well enough to come—she had shunned big socials until now—but was also looking so pretty and feminine in a wispy pink chiffon by Joe Salazar.

And we just got confirmation from the owners of Dish led by **Philip Cu-unjieng** and the network's administration manager that we could use the venue in the entire run of the exhibit, instead of moving it to a smaller gallery. (Dish is eyeing opening a branch in this area.)

And—this is really divine intervention—I just saw Dr. **Eleuterio "Teyet" Pascual** walk in. Formerly the best of friends, Teyet and Meldy hadn't really spoken to each other for nine years. In truth my breathing stopped when I saw Teyet sauntering in with a smile, in his antique *barong*, because I knew Meldy was only a hop away. Oh no, what scene would Teyet pull again, my mind went on an overdrive. But more on this later.

On top of all that, the real blessing was the big power crowd, the mix of which the city hadn't seen in a while—from high society to business and retail, yuppies, pretty young things, arts and culture, media and show biz. Joe couldn't have asked for more.

But, indeed, in the first place he didn't ask for it. One afternoon about two months ago, I touched base with Joe—about his career which accelerated the past two years and his bout with throat cancer last year. As Joe described, in so few words—Joe is no extrovert—how he went through cancer and went further back to the '70s and '80s, the fashion scene where we thrived, I decided we could gather a few of his gowns and exhibit them to complement our fashion shoot for Metro.

Initially we had five gowns, but before we knew it, we were talking retrospective.

We spotted an empty hall at ABS-

CELINE Gabriel in radiant Lancôme and L'Oreal makeup

Time to shine!

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

IT was supposed to be a casual lunch with friends Leica Carpo and Celine Gabriel, who both happen to be L'Oreal's PR directors.

When they picked me up, I saw L'Oreal goodies at the back of Leica's car. There were tons of Chrome Shine nail polish, Lancôme Juicy Tubes and L'Oreal techni.art hair gloss.

Apparently, they had to deliver these testers to the different outlets. Well, I stared at my ragged nails that needed a manicure and pedicure badly. We exchanged looks, and we all knew our lunch was scrapped.

Celine made a phone call to Gigi Daza, owner of Nail Tropics at Eastwood Center, and made an appointment. Instead of lunch, we were off to a beauty break instead.

When we arrived at the salon, I opted for the coffee and tea hand-and-foot treatment. Adventurous Leica chose to have nail art and flashy makeup, while poised Celine, with her long hair, was the best choice for gloss treatment and dewy makeup.

While we had a digicam with us, I absolutely refused to have my picture taken, as I thought I looked all-too-ratty.

My favorite nail colors from the chrome shine line were Bronze Chrome and Gold Chrome (P369), which have perfect complementary colors for your laptop or cellphone. Besides flattering different skin tones, the finish comes off as colored aluminum, worthy of any technology freak.

For the more conservative, I would recommend Maybelline's Water Shine Diamonds, which are sheer with sexy shimmer. I love Diamond Shine best, with its clear polish and prism-like shimmer.

Celine's look: Hair—L'Oreal techni.art's gloss line, which makes the driest hair worthy of any shampoo commercial. Makeup by Lancôme, with star products Flextencils mascara in black to thicken, lengthen and hold the curl, and Juicy Tubes lipstick in Fraise, a glossy red to make lips look fuller.

Leica's look: Juicy Tubes from the orange flavor family and Color Focus shadows from Lancôme in 112, pistachio green and 116, a golden bronze. She also designed her own nail art, which was very art deco.

The venue: Nail Tropics. The place is small, but the chairs are spaced decently apart. Prices are surprisingly reasonable and they are known for bridal shower parties (appointments preferred). Call 683-0106.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

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From
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ne Joe Salazar
retrospective
hibit was a buzz

REUNION of Dr. Teyet Pascual and Imelda Cojuangco, with Lulu Tinio

RIBBON-CUTTING with ABS-CBN Publishing President Ernesto Lopez, ABS-CBN EVP Charo Santos-Concio, Imelda Cojuangco, Dr. Teyet Pascual (background), Joe Salazar, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Ben Chan, and INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

CBN, which is called the studio gallery, so we thought of letting our Metro magazine produce the exhibit. Then **Ricco** and **Tina Ocampo** of Mix agreed to lend us 15 mannequins, so that automatically upped the number of gowns that could be exhibited. **Ben Chan** of Bench, Joe's bosom friend, was sold to the idea from the start and agreed to be a sponsor. Our AdSales diverted logistics to this unbudgeted event, and my old friend **Vicvic Villavicencio** committed his Triple-V's specialties of sushi, sashimi and *lechon de leche.*

As we went along, the preparations got bigger, without Joe making any demands. All I asked of him was to retrieve a few works—provided the task wouldn't stress him. We didn't want this to take a toll on his health, otherwise we were ready to abort it. But as it turned out, Joe's client-friends, led by **Imee** and **Irene Marcos**, were more than willing to help and lend their gowns.

Unlike other designers, Joe didn't keep his works, not even those from fashion shows. Joe never really had a solo show in three decades. So this "retrospective" consisted of works that represented his design and craft—not chronological, but indicative of what he had done and could do.

We knew from the start that we weren't going for quantity; we weren't out to fill the studio-gallery. Joey has told me often that Balenciaga's retro at the Metropolitan Museum consisted only of eight gowns.

Historic

Among them was **Imelda Marcos**' historic white *terno*—ironically the simplest, if not the most ordinary, of her clothing possessions. It's asymmetrically draped at the bosom. She wore this while the Edsa Revolution in 1986 was going on, as she waved from the Palace balcony at the crowd of Marcos loyalists that had gathered at Malacañang grounds—executing what would be her last grand farewell (but then again, not the last). It turned out this has been with Joe for safekeeping all this time.

There are also the light blue chiffon evening gown that won for Joe the Grand Ramon Valera Design Award in 1975; the elegant wedding gown of **Kakai Monotok-Arroyo** with its stylized *panuelo* sleeves and shower of Swarovski crystals from the lower torso down the train; the pink silk corset gown of Imee Marcos done deconstructively, the details of which, including the frayed fabrics on the bone, must be seen up close.

Then there are **Kit Silverio Zobel**'s black-and-white silk gown that trails at the hem—a masterpiece of simplicity and construction; Imelda Cojuangco's stylized Maria Clara in black-and-white plaid; **President Macapagal-Arroyo**'s purple *terno* worn at the State of the Nation Address recently; Sen. **Loi Ejercito**'s *terno* with fully hand-embroidered skirt worn at the inauguration of her husband at Barasoain Church.

As Joe gathered these works, we realized that the original venue, the studio gallery, would be cramped. One afternoon as our staff was making its way from the new ELJ Cénter to the old main building of ABS-CBN, we spotted this vast empty room. It turned out it was being eyed as the new Dish, but for now, it wasn't devoted to anything yet. So we just had to beseech the network's SVP **Monchet Olives** and administration head **Susan Carag**. They agreed.

Dramatic setup

Before we knew it, Ariel's reliable production designer **Malou Torres** had the vast space wrapped around in gauze—to contain it, while achieving dramatic transparency at that, and to separate the cocktail area from the exhibit hall. As the guests entered they'd see faint images of the gowns on mannequins beyond, but there's a wall of gossamer veil still. The dramatic lighting completed the mood.

On opening night, guests came as early as six—Imelda with **Marietta Santos**, First Daughter **Luli Arroyo**, among others. The scene was heating up, quite literally, by seven-ish, when the guests of honor came—Ben Chan, **Charo Santos-Concio, Ernie Lopez, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez** and **Tessa Prieto-Valdes.**

This sisters act was something else. Sandy had to be pulled to the center for the exhibit opening, but struggled, kinda chic and valiantly, to stay at the side. Tessa, on the other hand, proved every bit to be a living Joe Salazar mannequin plus-plus—she was in a resplendent original the craftsmanship of which the other guests scrutinized, and her hairdo was a masterpiece in itself.

Right before the opening, Teyet strode in with **Sonia Mathay** (who looked so at peace), **Lulu Tinio**, whose vintage *terno* was part of the exhibit and Lulu's daughter **Lisa Bayot**. It was Lulu who put Teyet and Meldy together. As eyes turned, the two air-bussed each other. The two talked like old times, with Teyet turning quite misty-eyed.

What was also heartwarming was the big turnout of three generations of designers—from **Ben Farrales** to Joe's contemporaries **Rusty Lopez, Larrie Silva, Goulee Gorospe**—guys I hadn't seen at a party for sometime—to the youngest ones like **Mich Dulce** (with her Jolina doll).

Ethel Timbol had the great idea right there and then to have a memorable shoot of these designers. She, like everyone else, knew that this was a rare opportunity.

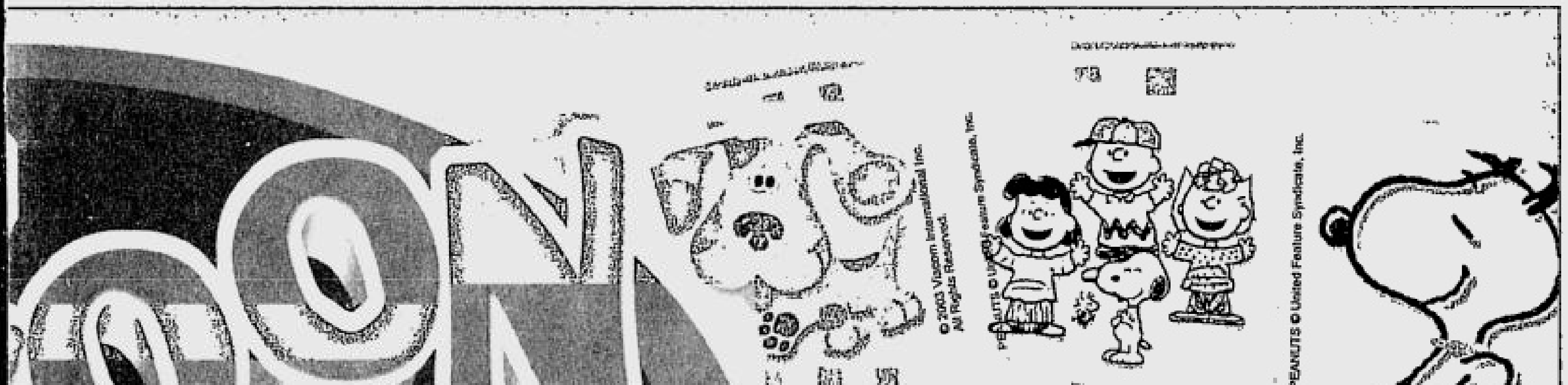
It was touching to see Joe being flanked by **Ernest Santiago** and **Inno Sotto**. Knowing the rivalry in that batch, I truly appreciated Inno's presence that night.

The crowd continued to stream in up to close to midnight. In the following days we'd get visitors to the exhibit from as far as Pampanga—dressmakers and designers who wanted to see the masterpieces of a foremost designer up close so they could learn from them.

Fanny Serrano even brought his bunch of seamstresses. Next week we will have fashion design students from Slim's, College of St. Benilde, among others. Our goal of sharing fashion design and craftsmanship with the young generation is being achieved.

That night, Joe was happy but still incredulous. In the thick crowd I had almost forgotten about Teyet. I wondered if the two social icons' reunion was indeed real. I looked back and caught a glimpse of Teyet leading Meldy by the elbow. It was indeed real.

Joe was right. All in God's plan.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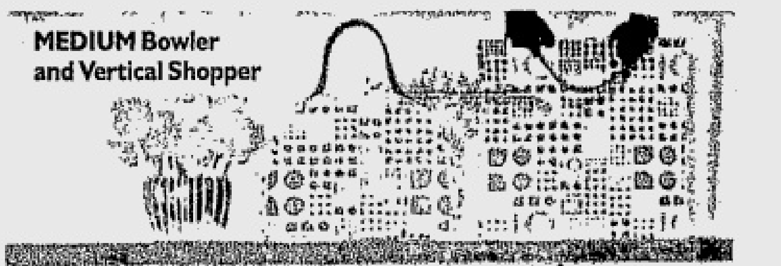
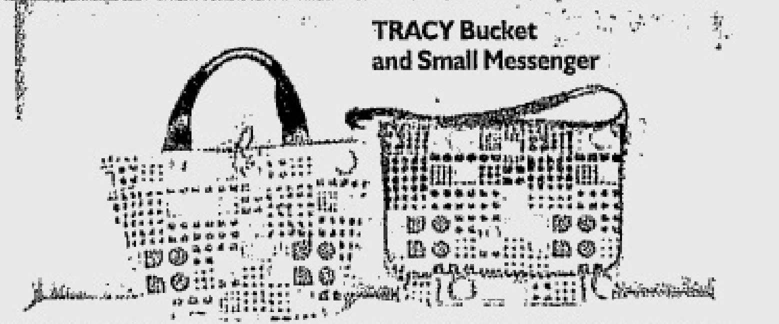


MEDIUM Bowler and Vertical Shopper



TRACY Bucket and Small Messenger

MASON with Long Handles and Small Shopper

GEORGE

Accessories company is 10 years old

KATE Spade, the company which started with the simple idea of a tote bag that was clean and classic yet thoroughly modern, is now 10 years old.

In 1993, Kate Brosnahan and Andy Spade, who eventually married, combined her first name and his last to create "Kate Spade" and launch a company that has become synonymous with casual American style, and whose accessories line has captured the imagination of women of all ages.

She received CFDA's Perry Ellis award for new talent in accessory design in 1996. Two years later CFDA named her accessory designer of the year.

As the company marks its 10th anniversary, it will also put the final touches on designs for a home collection and a series of three small books to be published by Simon & Schuster in the Spring of 2004.

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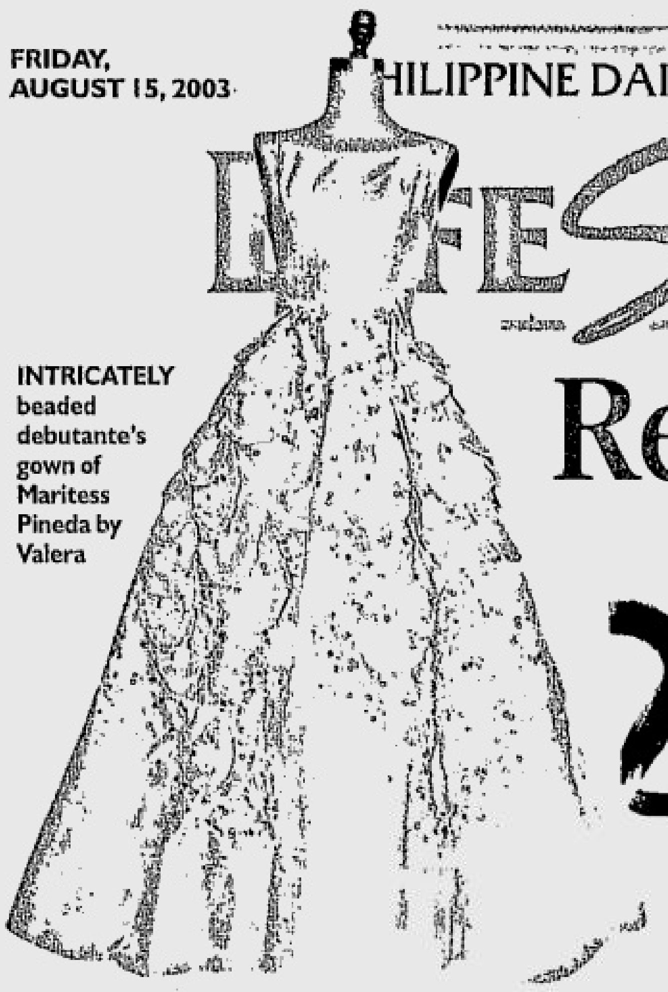
G1



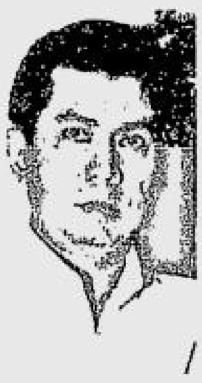
INTRICATELY beaded debutante's gown of Maritess Pineda by Valera

Red Cross presents Valera retrospective

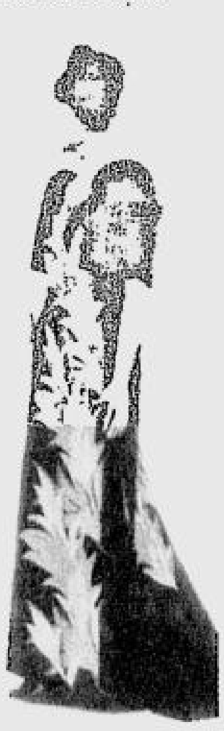
TO CELEBRATE the creative genius of a great Filipino designer who raised fashion to an art form from the '40s until his untimely demise in 1972, the Fund-Raising Committee of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) together with the Cultural Center of the Philippines is mounting the "Ramon Valera—A Retrospective for the Red Cross."

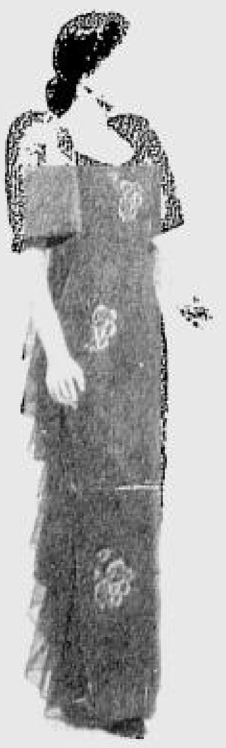
The gala event, to be held on Sept. 6 at the National Museum, is the second of three events organized this year by the committee.

RED/ G2



RAMON Valera





1950s-1960s

Real People. True Stories.

"Teenager? You must mean my daughters! With Imedeen, my skin's smooth even without make-up."

Joanna Valencia-de Jesus,
33, AVP for Finance, interior design student,
mother of two

Joanna de Jesus has the fresh face of a college girl -- plus a successful career and not one but two teenaged daughters! Yet you'd never guess it from her skin: "People can't believe I'm 33!" Thanks to Imedeen, Joanna's not only maintained her young skin -- she's even *improved* it: "I wasn't born with perfect skin. I had sunspots and tiny veins, but they're almost gone; now I don't even need foundation!" Only Imedeen nourishes skin from deep within -- for a smooth, firm, defiantly youthful complexion *without* time consuming rituals. So when her daughters' friends or her own classmates are amazed at her age, Joanna just smiles and says "Believe it -- and believe Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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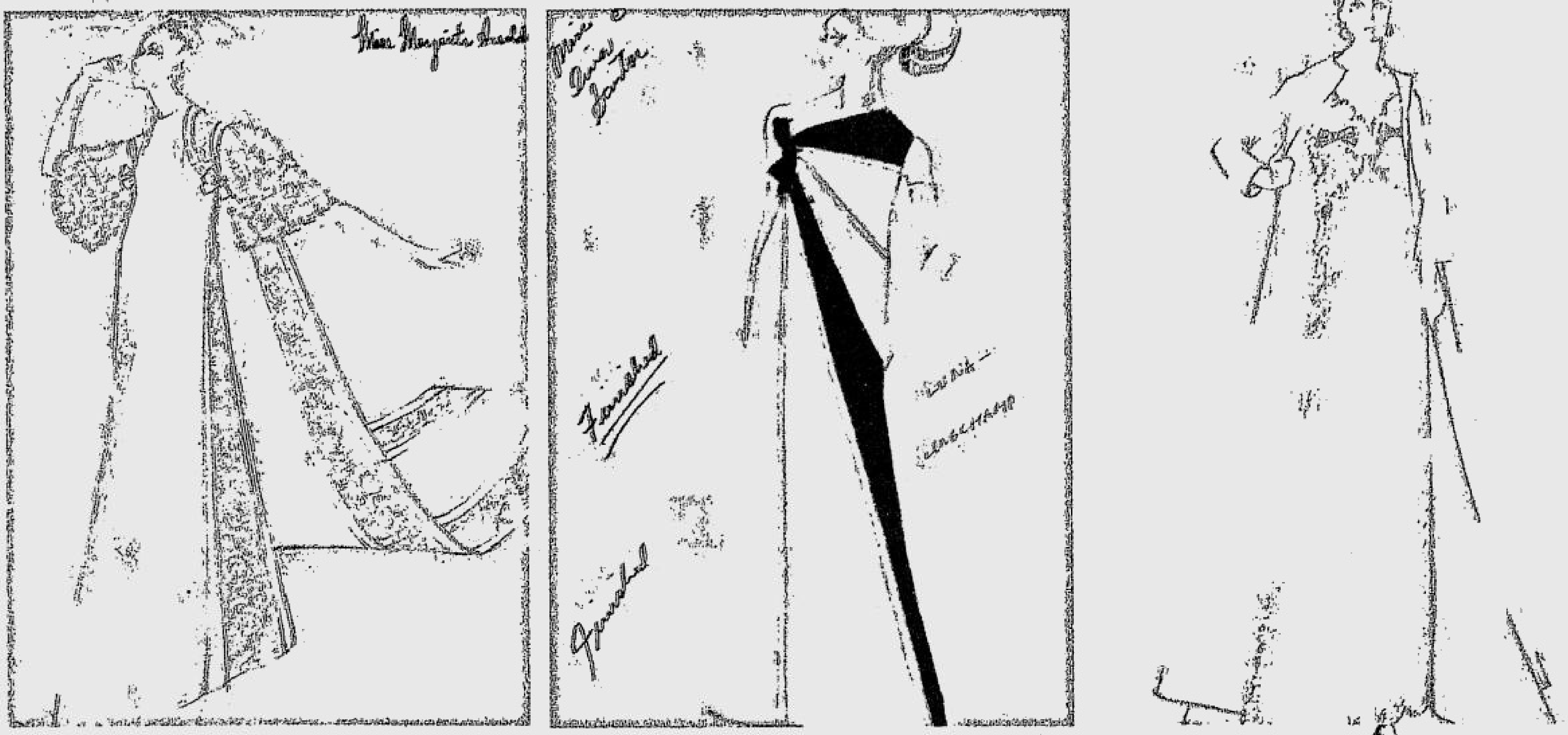
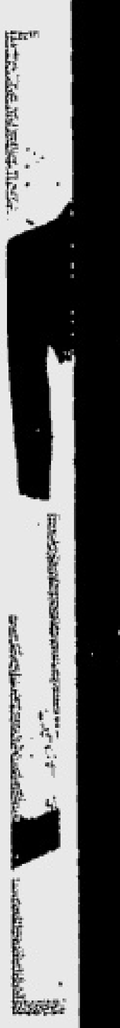
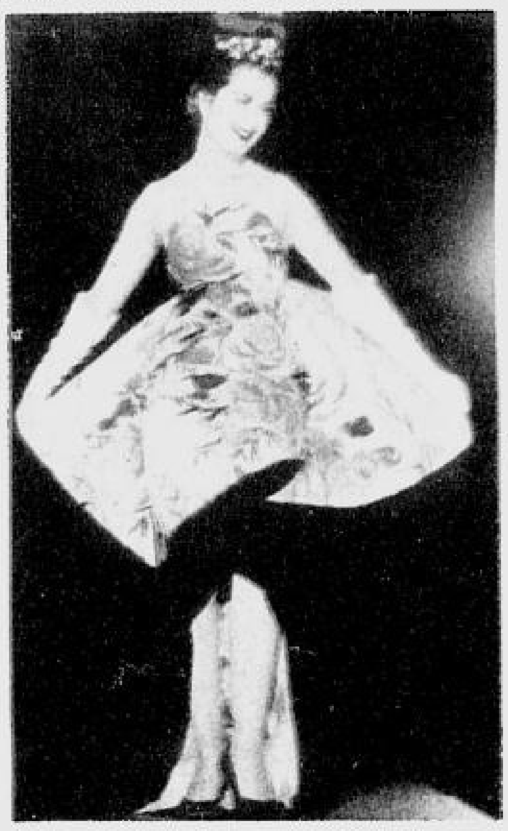
ALABANG Left Wing | Festival Supermall | Filinvest • **MAKATI** Corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Extension • [illegible]

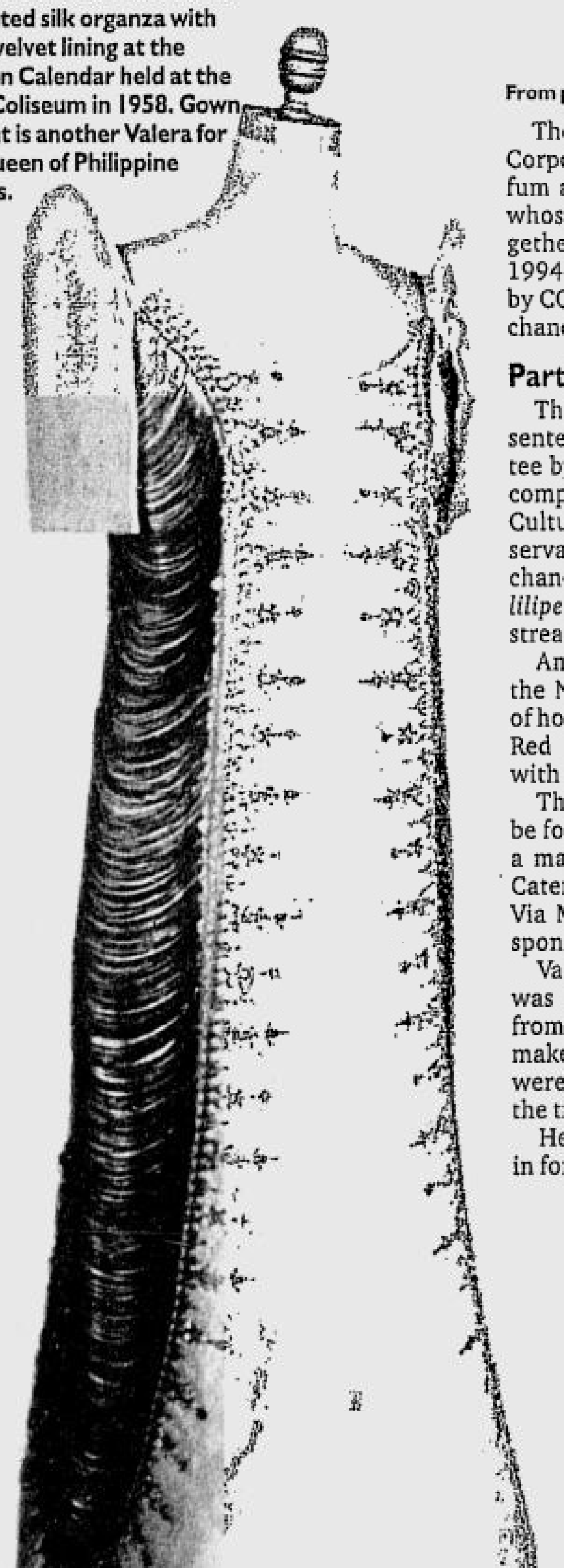
SKETCHES by an artist who designed only gowns, never dresses, for the country's original fashionistas.



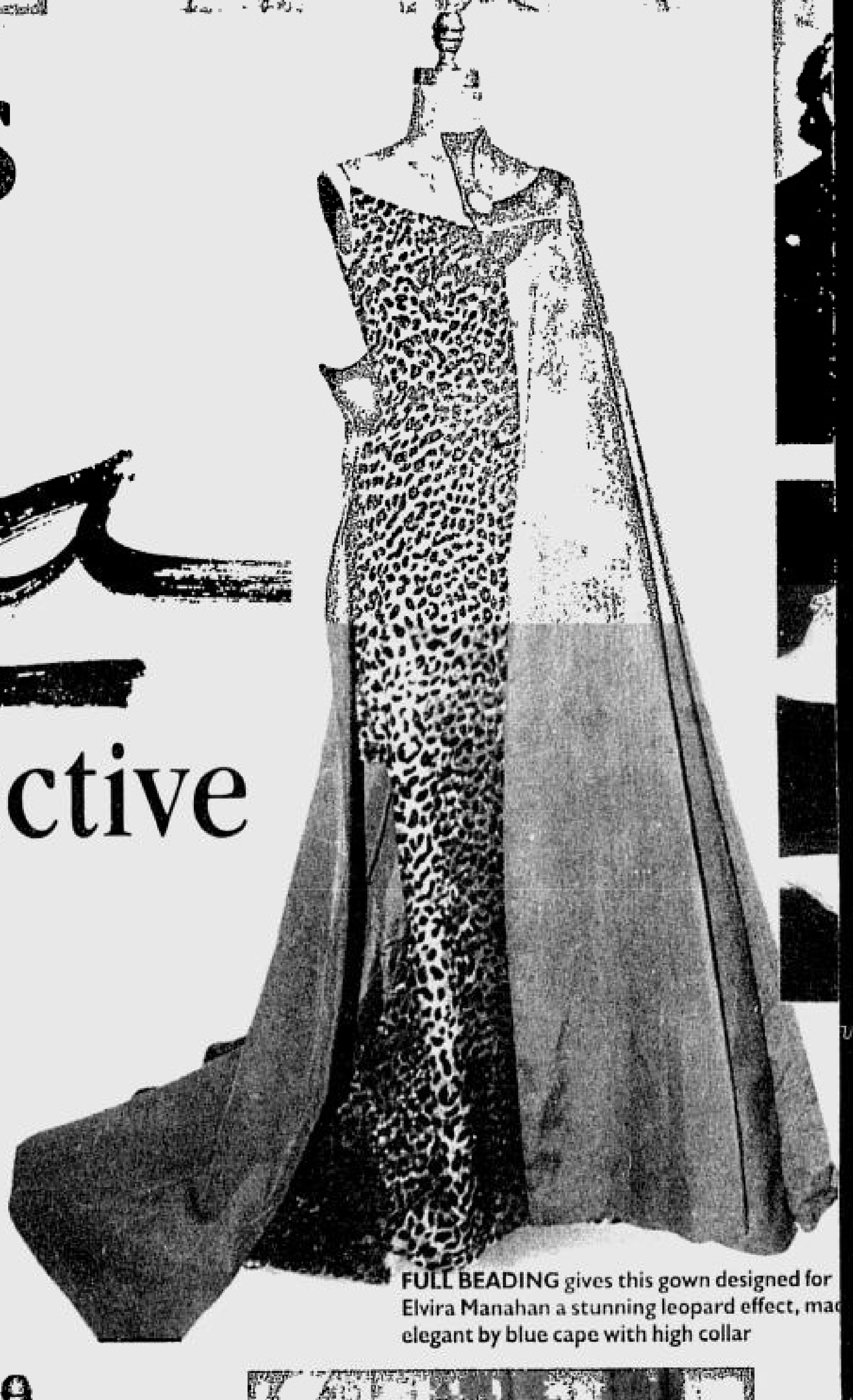




ULTRA glamorous Gloria Romero models a coat-dress of printed silk organza with black velvet lining at the Fashion Calendar held at the Rizal Coliseum in 1958. Gown at right is another Valera for the Queen of Philippine Movies.



Red Cross presents Valera retrospective



FULL BEADING gives this gown designed for Elvira Manahan a stunning leopard effect, ma
elegant by blue cape with high collar

From page G0

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) and Gucci Eau de Parfum are sponsoring the PNRC fund-raiser, whose curator, Danny Dolor, also put together the first Valera exhibit for the CCP in 1994. Dolor is being assisted for this project by CCP's Eric Cruz and Rustan's Visual Merchandising Department will execute.

Part of Filipino heritage

The idea for the retrospective was presented to the PNRC Fund-Raising Committee by INQUIRER columnist Bambi Harper to complement the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Filipino Heritage observance in September. "This is also our chance to pay tribute to the *burdaderas* and *liliperas* who have never been mainstreamed," said Harper.

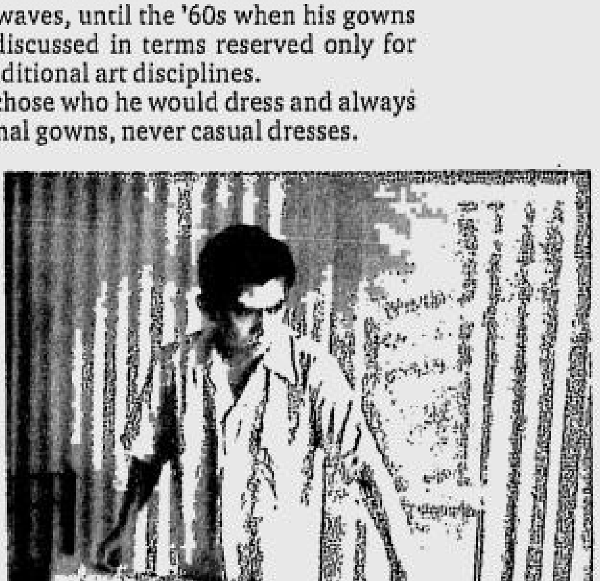
Antonio Cojuangco, who is also chair of the National Museum, welcomed the idea of holding the exhibit at the museum, so the Red Cross committee has been working with executive director Cora Alvina.

The presentation of Valera's gowns will be followed by a gala dinner and auction of a major work by artist Manuel Baldemor. Catering the dinner is Glenda Barretto of Via Mare. Ralph's Wines & Spirits is wine sponsor.

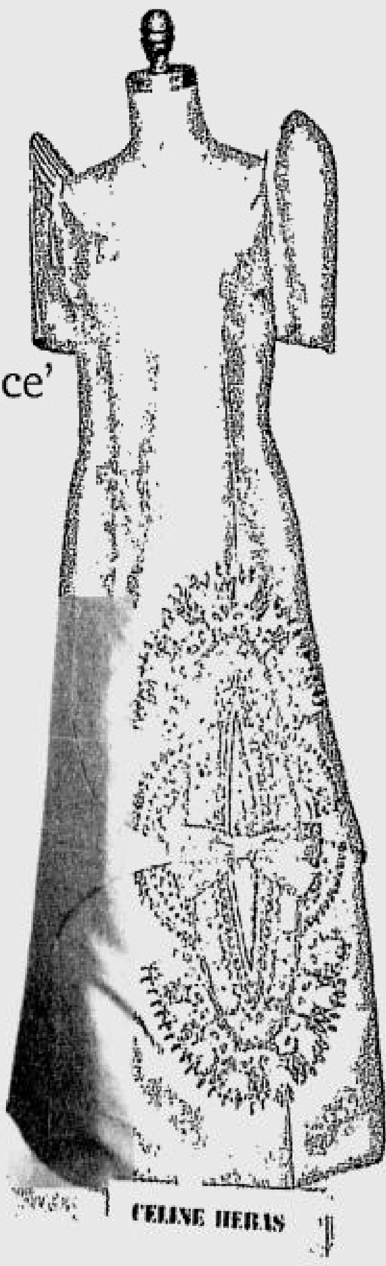
Valera, who was born on Aug. 31, 1912, was the darling of Manila's haute society from the late '30s, when he first started to make waves, until the '60s when his gowns were discussed in terms reserved only for the traditional art disciplines.

He chose who he would dress and always in formal gowns, never casual dresses.

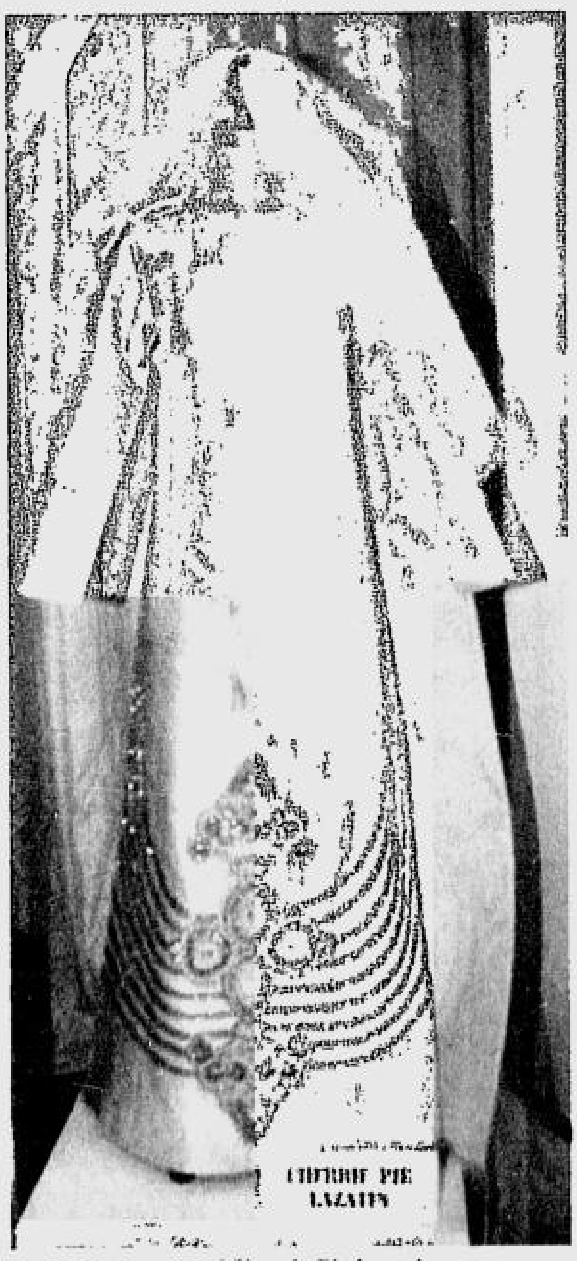
The legendary haute couture artist created as he believed: 'Every gown is a masterpiece'



VALERA at work in his atelier



MODERN *terno* for Celine Heras



WEDDING gown of Cherrie Pie Lazatin

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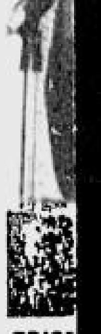
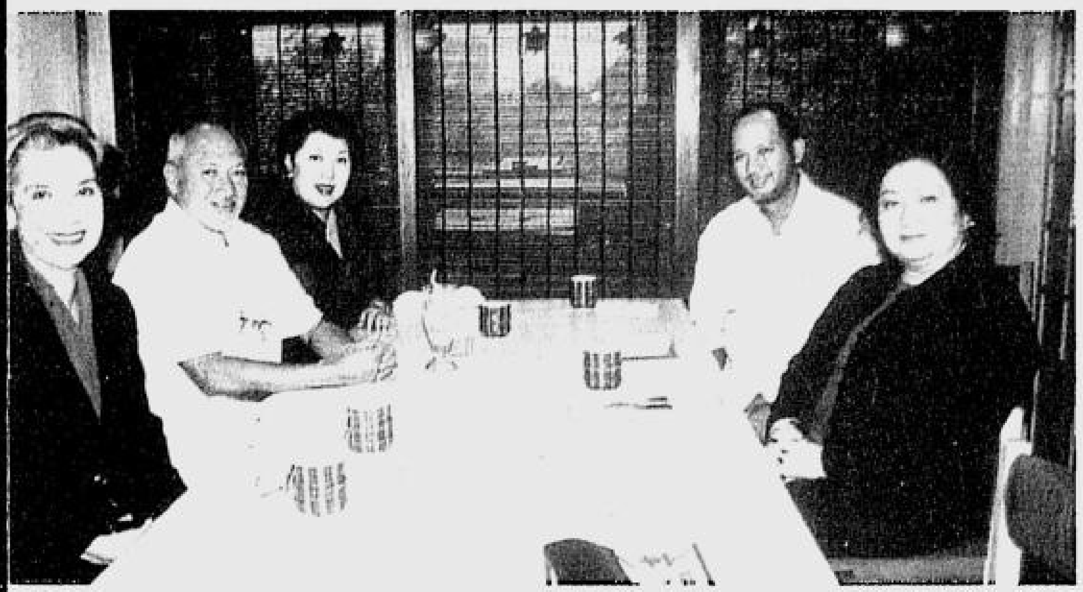
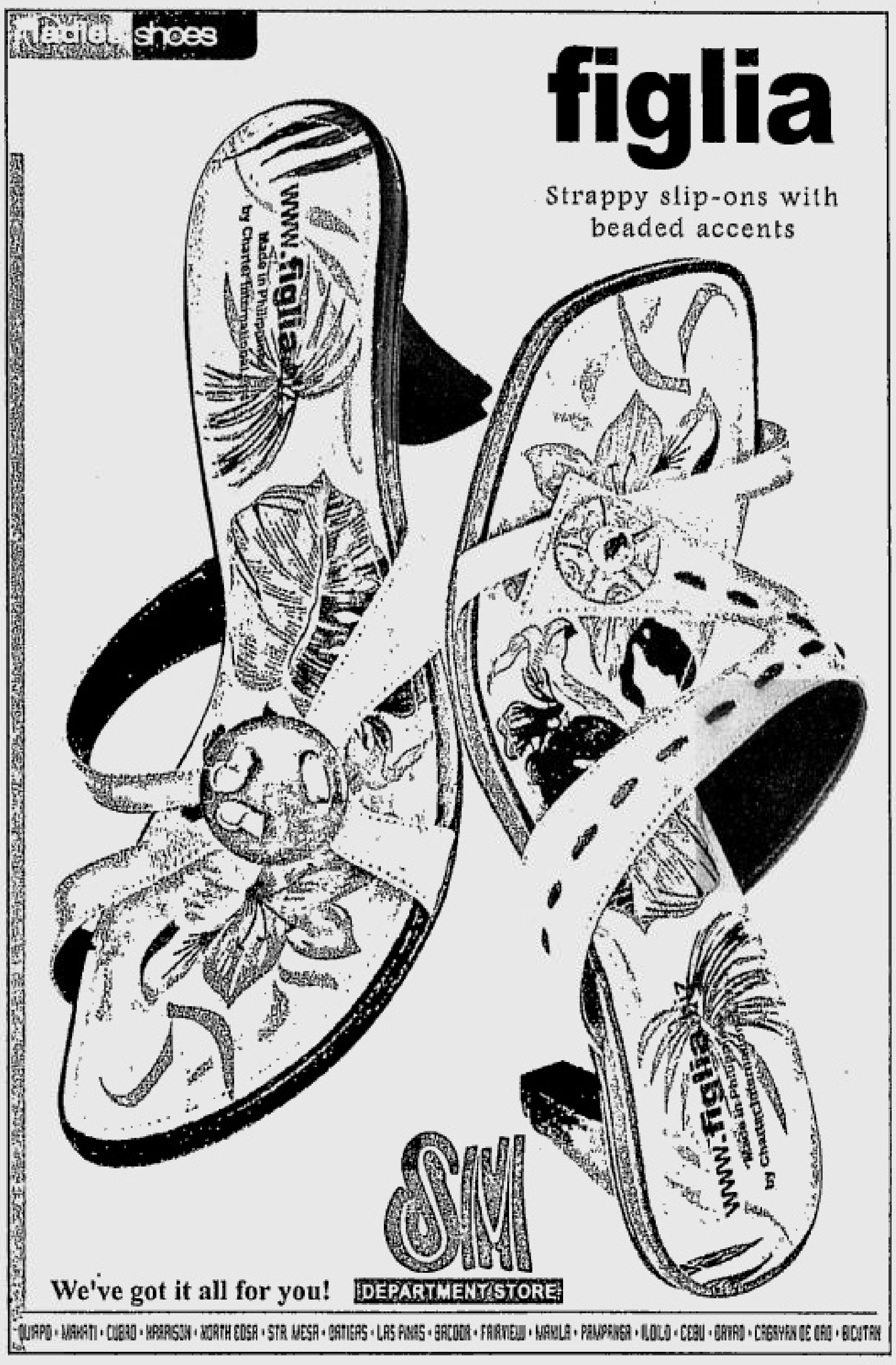


CRISE
guests
Valera

RED Cross governor Rosa Rosal, Valera exhibit curator Danny Dolor and Warner Manning, CEO of HSBC



PNRC fund raising committee members Bambi Harper (left), Nedy Tantoco (right), chairperson for the Philippine Red Cross Benefit 2003, with co-chairpersons Ernest Escaler, Irene Francisco and Tony Boy Cojuangco at a meeting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AT THE RAMON Valera-George Oca fashion show in 1960: Model Ms Higgins, George Oca, Ramon Valera and Ms Luz Magsaysay

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The unveiling of a new Valera collection was an eagerly awaited event where glitz was guaranteed—though, in what shape and form it could never be predicted.

Take the time in 1939 when he delightfully scandalized Manila society by displaying on the catwalk a one-piece *terno* fastened at the back with a zipper. Years later he took liberties with the staid contours of the ancestral Maria Clara and turned it into a bridal gown. But his most brazen break from tradition came when designed a *terno* minus the *panuelo*.

Alien concept

Valera regarded commercialism as an alien concept and he resisted suggestions to open a ready-to-wear boutique. With a majestic sweep of his hand, he would dismiss the idea: "I don't want to be popular. I just want to be famous."

He turned down the offer of the famous Madrid couturier, Cristobal Balenciaga, to be the chief designer of an Asian fashion house the Spanish designer was planning.

He designed the inaugural gowns of all the First Ladies—from Aurora Quezon to Imelda Marcos, with the exception of Eva Macapagal, although he did made the debutante gown of her daughter Gloria, who is now the President.

He also made gowns for Queen Sirikit of Thailand and United States First Lady Ladybird Johnson.

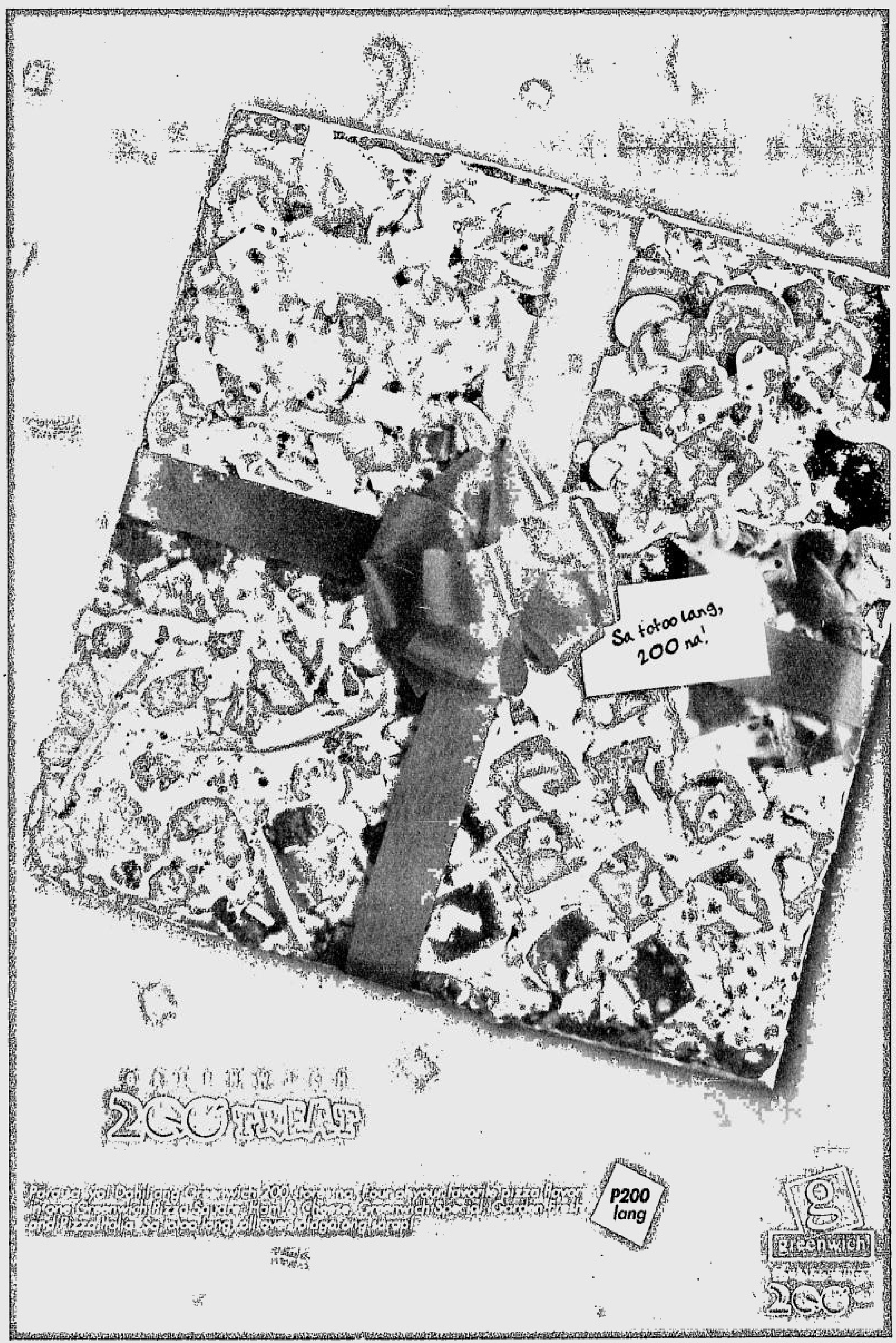
Valera died from cerebral hemorrhage in 1972, a few days before turning 60.

The PNRC retrospective honors the artist who lived the motto"Cada traje es una obramaestra Every gown is a masterpiece)."

The PNRC's 2003 fund-raising committee is composed of Nedy R. Tantoco, Gina L. Lopez, Antonio O. Cojuangco, Irene M. Francisco, Ernest L. Escaler, Jamby Madrigal-Valade, Danny L. Dolor, Mario O. Katigbak, Vicky F. Zubiri and Criselda R. Lontok. Valera's nieces Paching dela Fuente and Peching Zulueta Gomez are advisers.

The third and final event in the PNRC fund-raising drive will be the grand ball sponsored by Bulgari on Oct. 25 at Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

LDA Lontok welcomes at the media launch of the retrospective.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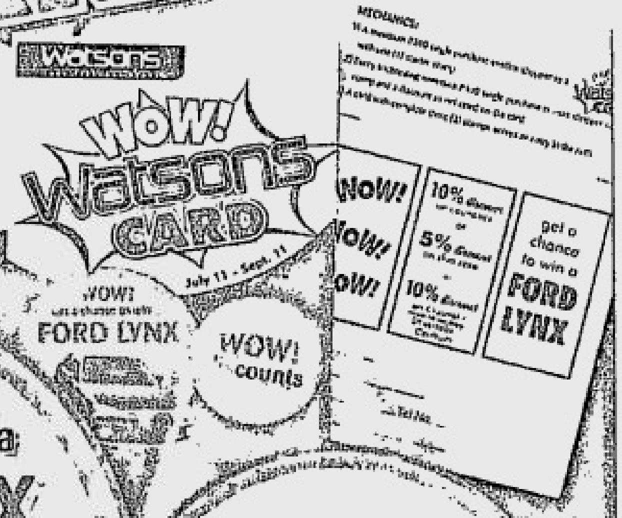
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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

TWIST OF FATE. Cindy Kurleto, then barely 20, left Austria to try her luck in Manila two years ago. Her late mother was of the same age when she left the Philippines to work in Vienna as a nurse.

Guess what she'll do next

Fil-Austrian Cindy Kurleto has an unfailing style sense all her own

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

KEEP 'em guessing. That's one classic move Cindy Kurleto seems to have mastered early on in her bid to spice up her budding show biz career. And nowhere is this attitude more evident than in her choice of clothes.

Blessed with a svelte figure and a height any wannabe beauty queen would die for, the 5'8" Filipino-Austrian beauty could have gone sexy like everybody else when she graced the recent FHM party the magazine hosted for its cover girls.

Instead, she went for the corporate look by pairing a fitted, long-sleeved white blouse with a black pencil skirt and a pair of black, high-heeled Nine West shoes. Except for a red necktie that went with her "red-hot lips," the commercial model-turned-television host hardly wore anything flashy or provocative. Based on the "positive feedback" she got, Cindy's gambit seems to have paid off.

"A woman can still look sexy without showing off her skin," says Cindy, 22, flashing a broad grin. "I guess I did the right thing."

From a virtual unknown who used to walk

GUESS/ H2

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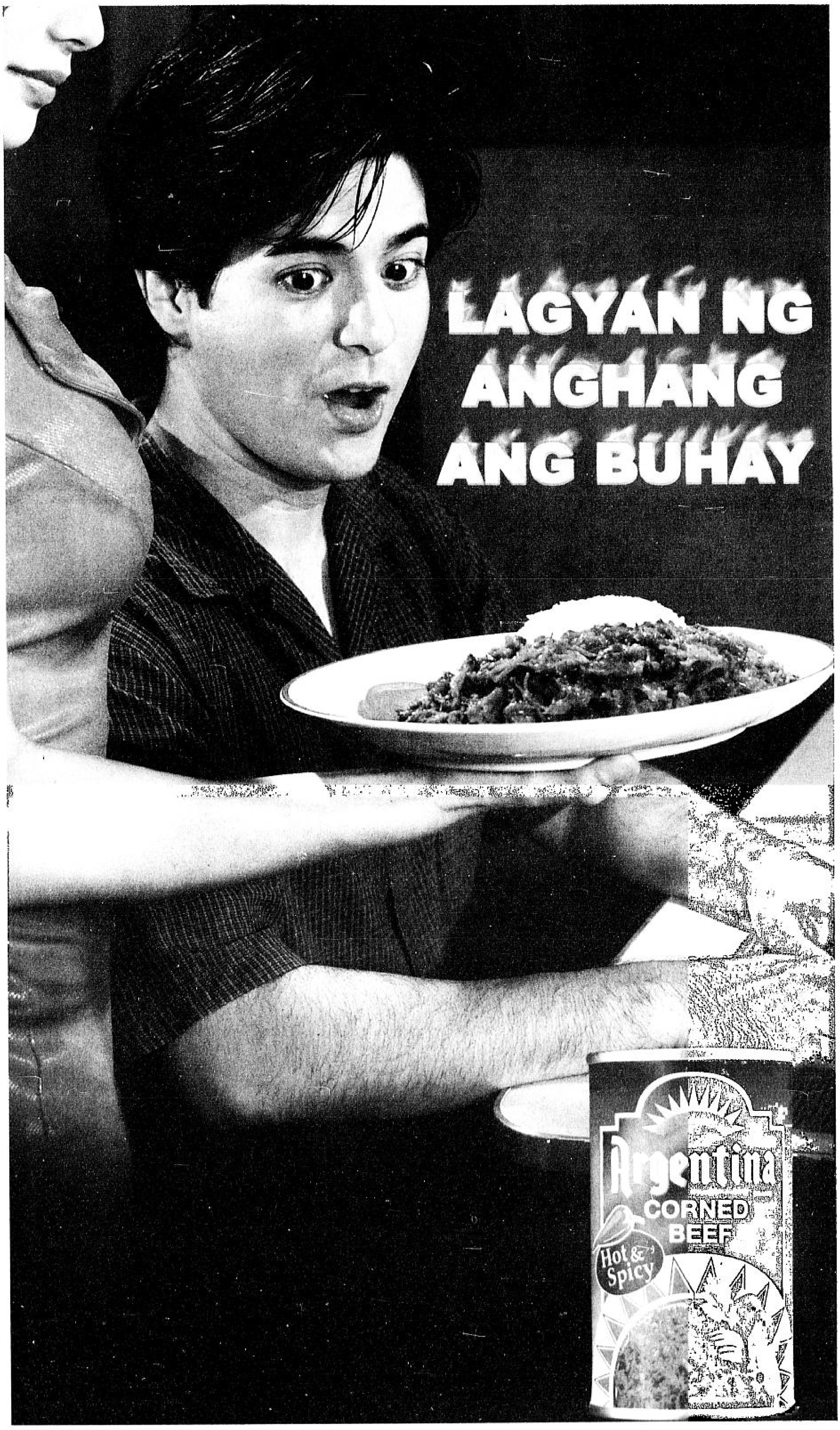

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PRETTY YOUNG THING. Cindy, in Curata's strapless column made of sequined tulle lined with jersey, has had her share of real-life drama, including the sudden death of her beloved mom and episodes of racial discrimination in Vienna. To her, doing comedy roles is more challenging.

Guess what she'll do next

From page H1

the streets of Vienna in baby tees, baggy jeans and rubber shoes two years ago, Cindy has become quite an ubiquitous figure, an advertising model in Asia and a goddess of beauty in the information superhighway. She is arguably one of the hottest pretty young things on local television these days.

What was supposed to be a month-long break in the Philippines, her late mother's birthplace, eventually stretched to two years, especially when Cindy landed on billboards as the dream girl of many a San Miguel Beer drinker.

"I'd say my mom initiated me into fashion," says Cindy. "Since I'm the only child, I was like her living doll. Imagine how horrified she was when she saw me in baggy jeans several years later. She wanted me to look more like a girl."

Mama's girl

Her eyes betray a hint of sadness. Nine months into Cindy's extended vacation, her mother went into a coma as a result of an aneurysm. Cindy immediately took the first flight to Vienna, but it was too late. To this day, she regrets not being able to say goodbye to her.

"I wasn't able to see her during the last nine months of her life," she says, her voice almost to the point of cracking. "It would have been a disservice to my mom's memory not to come back to the Philippines and pursue what I've started. This is where people have embraced me."

After the San Miguel billboards, Cindy soon landed a series of shampoo and skin-care commercials for Asian countries except the Philippines. And because of the Filipinos' Internet presence, Cindy landed third in a survey of the "world's sexiest women," behind Halle Berry and another American beauty.

So the hotel and restaurant management graduate had to say goodbye to Vienna's food scene in favor of a show-biz career in Manila.

Cindy is now a mainstay of "Masayang Tanghali Bayan," ABS-CBN's noontime variety show, where she struggles daily to speak in Tagalog while providing viewers with their daily dose of eye candy.

TURNING JAPANESE. She slips into Curata's oriental take on a resort outfit: silk chiffon blouse with kimono sleeves and obi sash.

SPORTY SPICE. Cindy, in a Lee baby tee and a pair of Paris Blues jeans, never dreamt of becoming a celebrity while growing up in Austria.

Now that she's regularly seen on television, Cindy has become all the more selective and creative in her choice of clothes. Although she takes her job of looking good in public seriously, she still manages to have fun while looking the part.

For one, Cindy makes it a point not to be seen in the same type of clothes two days in a row. She wears jeans one day, then a skirt the next. Her moods are also reflected in the clothes she wears.

Whenever she's feeling "funky," for instance, she slips into a fitted blouse or a baby tee and her favorite pair of Pele Pele jeans, a popular Italian brand. For this fashion shoot, Cindy shows her glamorous side by wearing several pieces designed by West Coast-based Filipino designer Ito Curata.

Minimalist

When it comes to fashion, she lives by one rule: Limit the focal point to one item of clothing. Aside from limiting it to one area, Cindy tries to keep the flashy details to a minimum.

Sorry, Pilita Corrales. You certainly won't catch this lady dead wearing, say, a rhinestone-studded outfit from top to bottom.

"If I wear a flashy skirt, for example, I go for a simple top," she explains. "I don't think a fully beaded gown or dress is stylish."

Cindy's sense of style was evident even during her teen years in Vienna, at the height of grunge and the hip-hop craze in the 1990s. Not a few people, she says, would stop her in the streets and compliment her for her look.

"I was wondering what the big deal was all about," she recalls with amusement, "since I was wearing baggy pants and T-shirts most of the time."

Cindy considers herself more a trendsetter than a follower. Believe it or not, there have been times when she watched the Lifestyle Channel or scanned fashion magazines only to find the very ideas that were swimming in her head days or weeks before.

"Although I'm not very good at drawing," she says, "I'm seriously considering shifting to a career in fashion design in the future."

Oddly enough, she doesn't spend as much money on clothes as she does on accessories.

Nor is she a slave to signature brands. Mango, Lee, Adidas and local brand U are among her favorites. To Cindy, looking fashionable is simply a matter of combining the right pieces.

"One can even wear a '70s-inspired top with a '90s-inspired bottom," she says. "I'm not readily influenced by brands. If it [a piece of clothing] calls out to me, I'll buy it provided I can afford it."

Cindy also dresses up to please herself and not her man. Not even her rumored boyfriend, one of the network's resident heartthrobs and all-around celebrity endorsers, can ever change her sense of style.

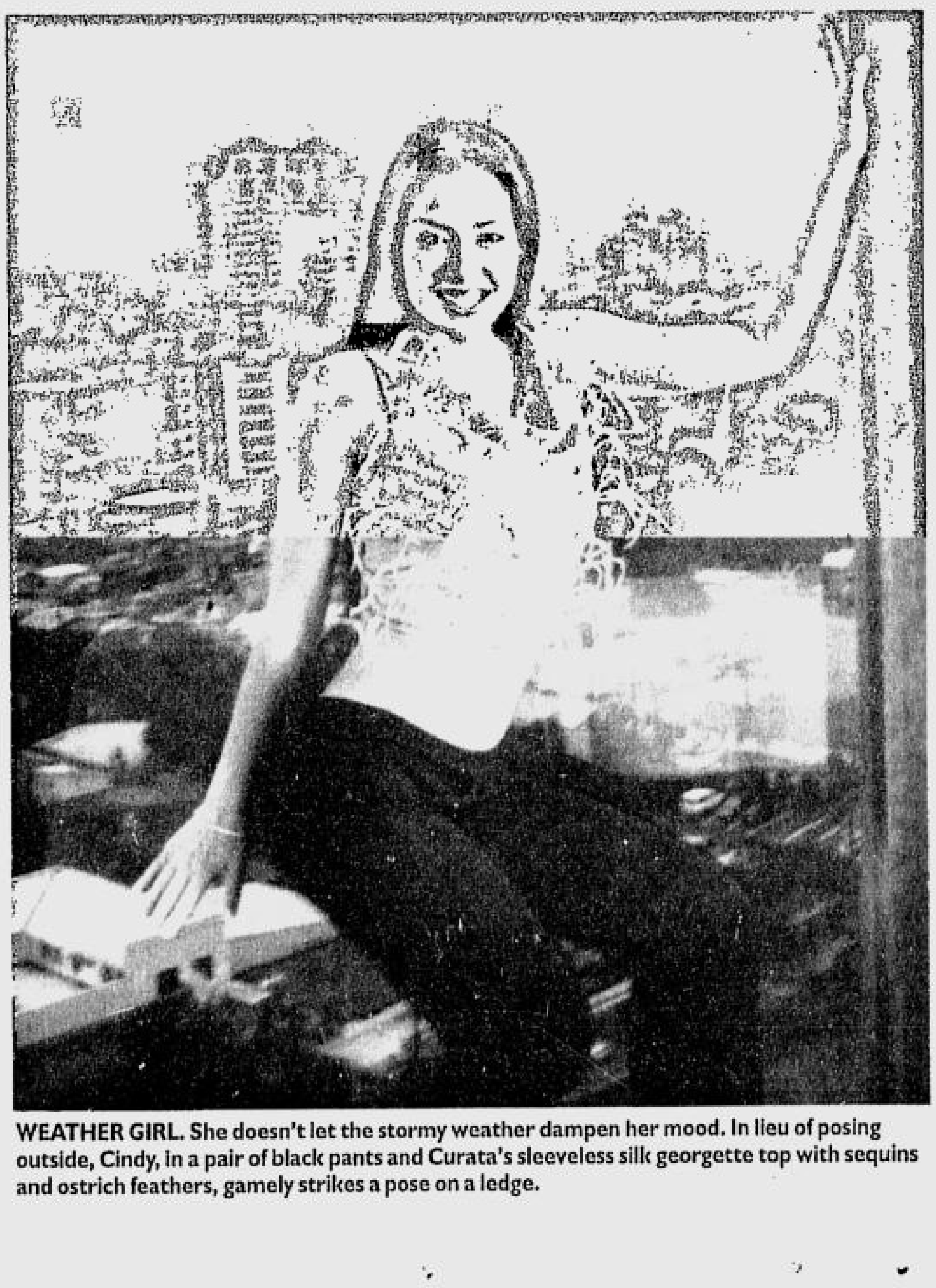
"The thought has never occurred to me," she says, "simply because it has never happened."

When asked about the real score between her and her supposed sweetheart, Cindy pauses before breaking into a naughty smile: "Good friends... happy friends." It seems she likes to keep everybody guessing, in matters of the heart and of the wrap.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

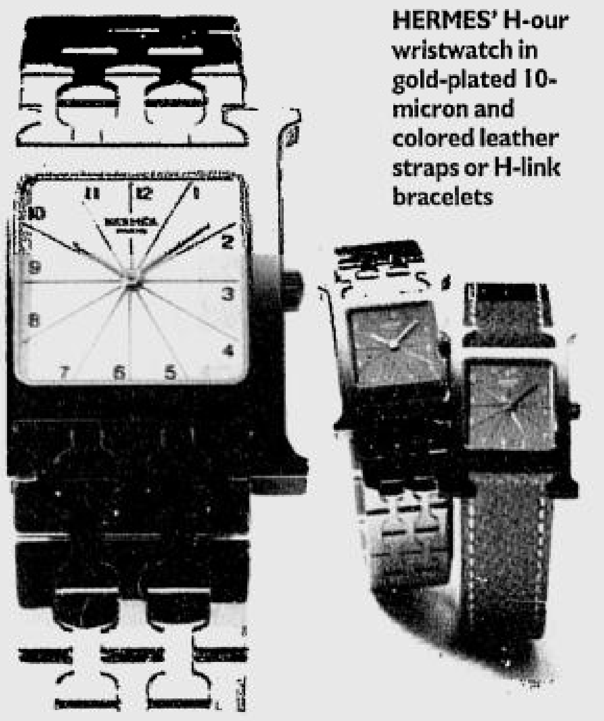
GOOD FRIEND. No, she won't change her style to please her man, not even her current rumored boyfriend. Cindy wears a Lee stretched cotton blouse and a pair of Paris Blues jeans.

EVENING WEAR:
ITO CURATA
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
BERN DUENAS
VENUE:
RESTAURANT 9501,
ABS-CBN BUILDING



WEATHER GIRL. She doesn't let the stormy weather dampen her mood. In lieu of posing outside, Cindy, in a pair of black pants and Curata's sleeveless silk georgette top with sequins and ostrich feathers, gamely strikes a pose on a ledge.

Watch for the non-conformist



HERMES' H-our wristwatch in gold-plated 10-micron and colored leather straps or H-link bracelets

WITH the famous Hermes "H," H-our is the ultimate non-conformist wristwatch. It is a truly unmistakable Hermes timepiece with a fashionable monogram framing the watch case.

The H-our comes in mens and women's versions, in gold-plated 10-micron. It offers an eye-catching choice of colored leather straps or the distinctive H-link bracelets.

Hermes watches are available in Rustan's, Hans Brumann, HEMM in Power Plant Rockwell, HEMM in Podium and Alexis in Glorietta 1 in Metro Manila.

Hermes watches are available in steel, gold and steel or solid gold with either matching metal bracelets, or with stitched leather straps in the tradition of the famous Faubourg Saint-Honore House. Dials have unique and original shapes. The back of each watch is engraved with Hermes' distinctive *ex-libris* signature.

'80s look in watches

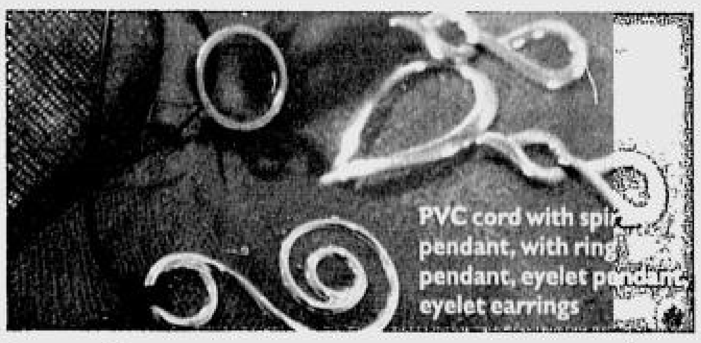
GUESS what Guess has done to its watches?

With the Off the Cuff watches, its new fashion line for young, fashion-driven consumers, Guess has created accessories that lend a punk element to the latest '80s revival. The line's new designs keep the brand fashion- fresh. The leather timepieces are powerful yet functional, combining hardware details with soft leathers.

Guess Off the Cuff watches are available in denim straps and tooled, distressed leathers. Also available are pieces in fashionable leopard print and hot summer colors of turquoise and fuchsia.

Cases are available in polished silver or brushed metals. Select watches offer either date or day function.

The new Guess collection is available at fine stores and authorized Guess dealers nationwide.



PVC cord with spi pendant, with ring pendant, eyelet pendant, eyelet earrings

Jewelry store opens new outlet

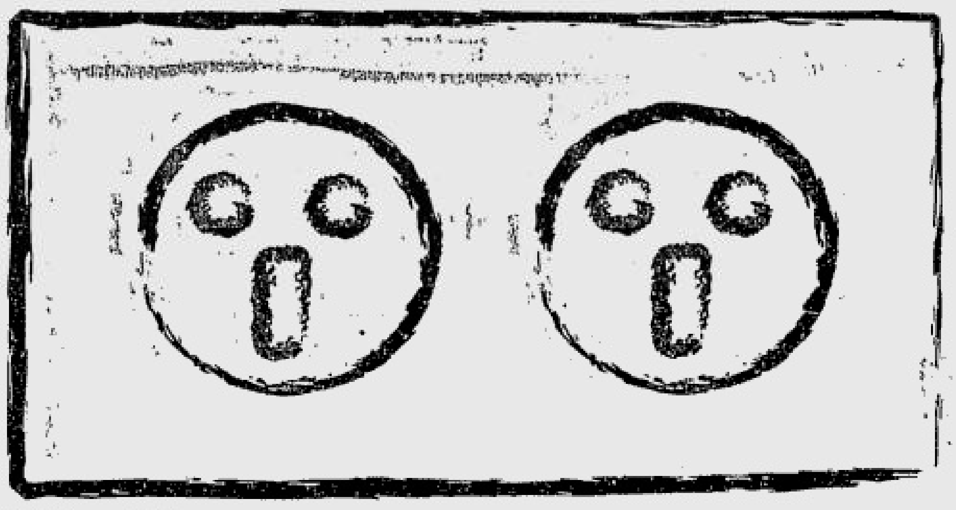
RUSTAN'S Superstore Cubao is host to the latest outlet of Michelis Gifts and Jewellery, one of the country's finest makers of sterling silver jewelry.

The new Michelis at Rustan's Cubao will be its fifth boutique in a shopping mall. Other outlets are in Greenbelt 1, Lifestyles at the Power Plant, Rustan's Alabang Town Center, and Rustan's Tower Shangri-La Plaza.

Michelis' sterling silver pieces are perfect for any occasion; their designs will match any outfit. They are ideal for commemorating momentous occasions.

Each Michelis sterling silver creation is handcrafted and guaranteed to possess the level of purity required by the international market.

Other Michelis shops are at the lobbies of Shangri-La Hotel, Makati, The Peninsula Manila and Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Call 812-3456 loc. 2996.



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VOL. 1 NO. 1 THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SUN CELLULAR AUGUST 2003

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Sun Cellular introduces Plan 600, the latest addition to Sun's range of plans -- all made to suit your lifestyle! Now you can enjoy the lowest call rates and the most number of free text messages at a monthly service fee (MSF) of Php 600 a month. Get 350 free text messages for ispeak subscribers or 450 free text messages for itext subscribers -- as much as double the free text allocation of other networks [illegible]

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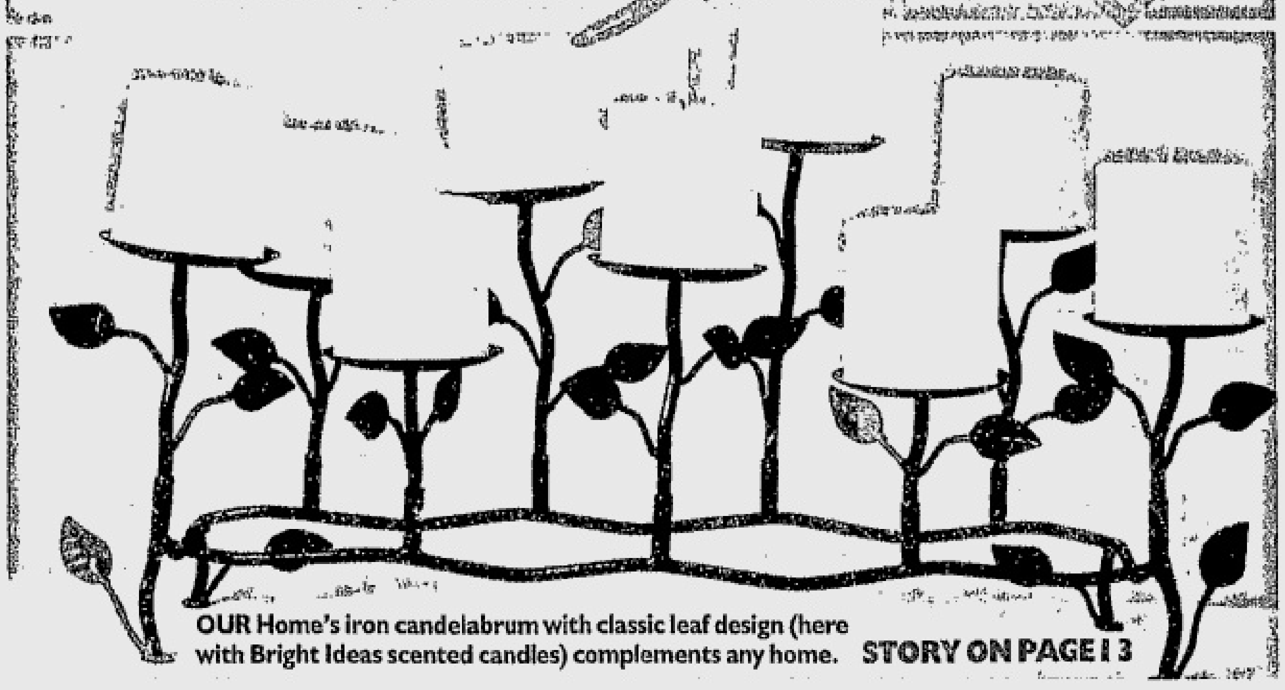
LIFESTYLE Home



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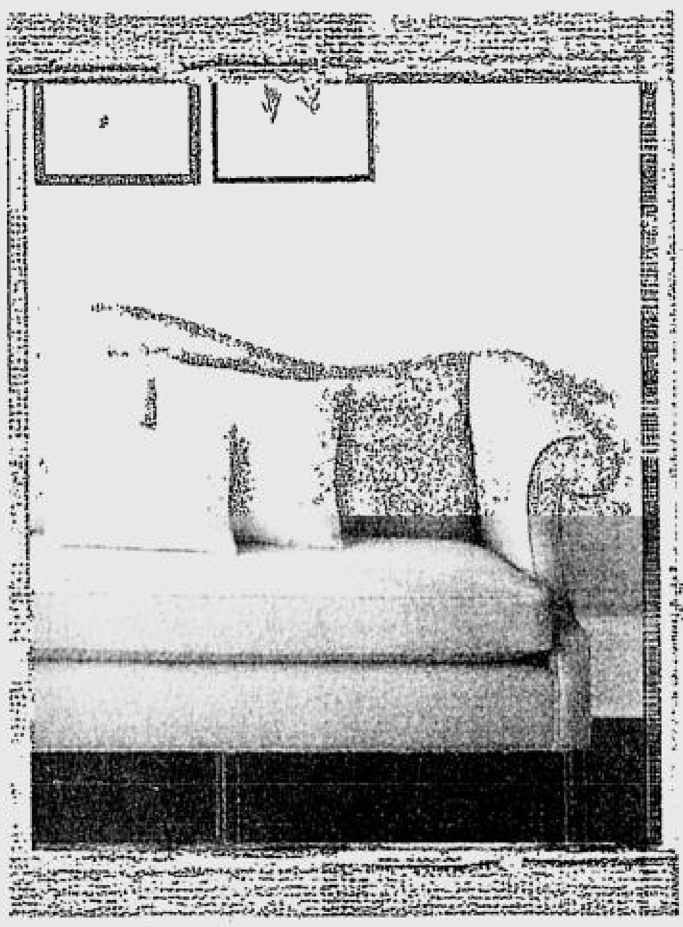

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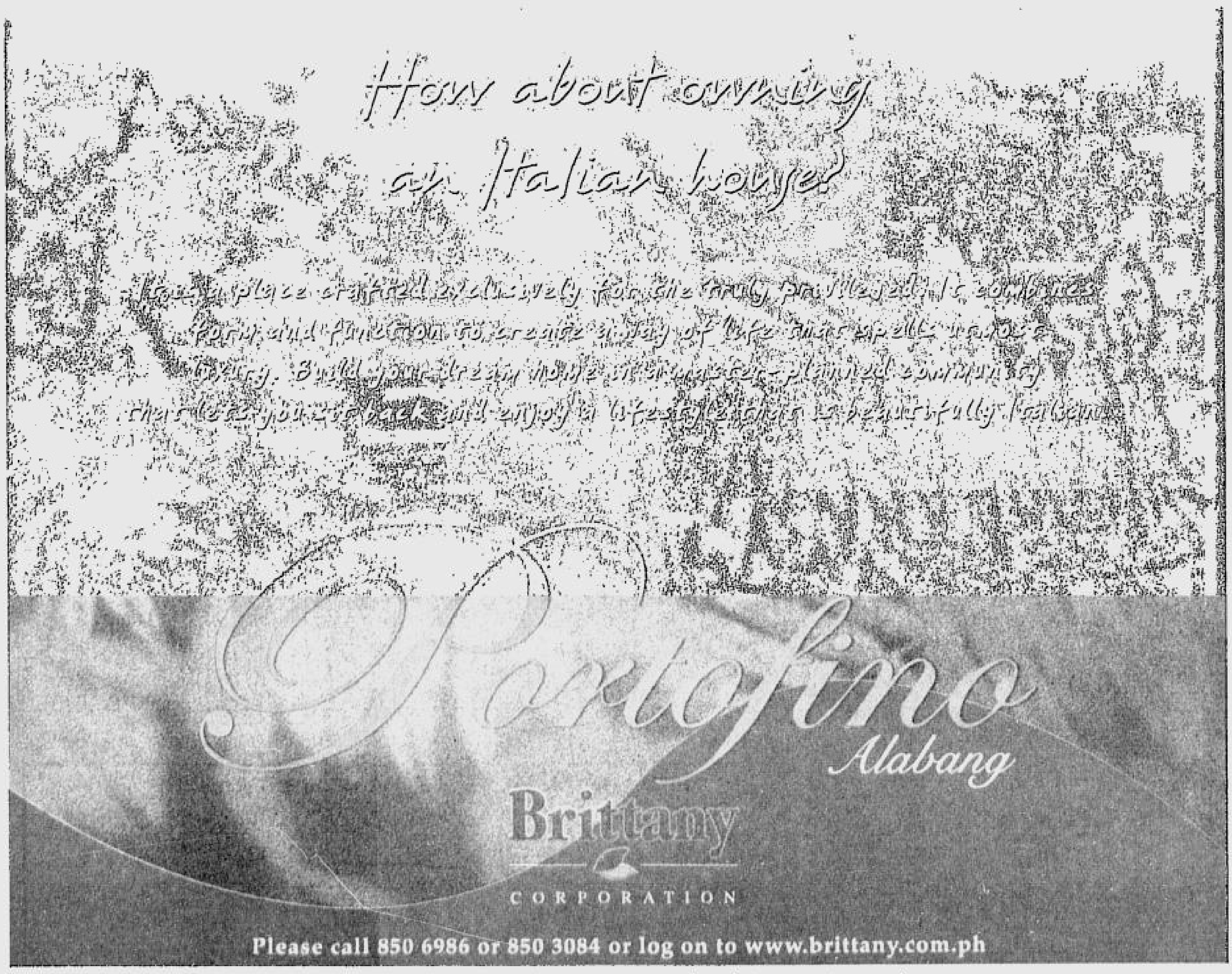

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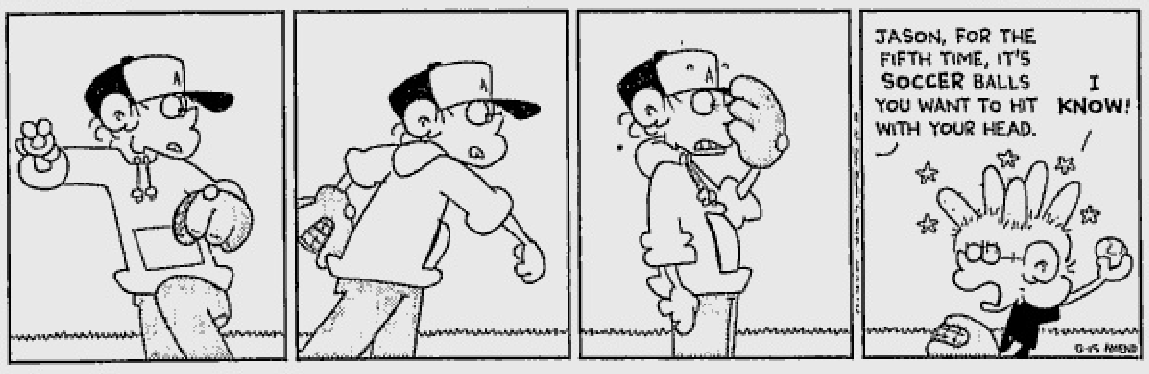
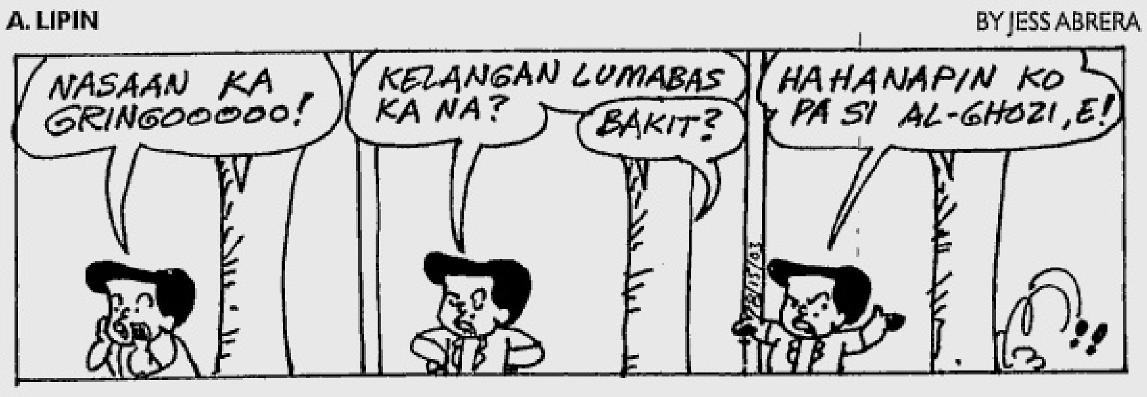
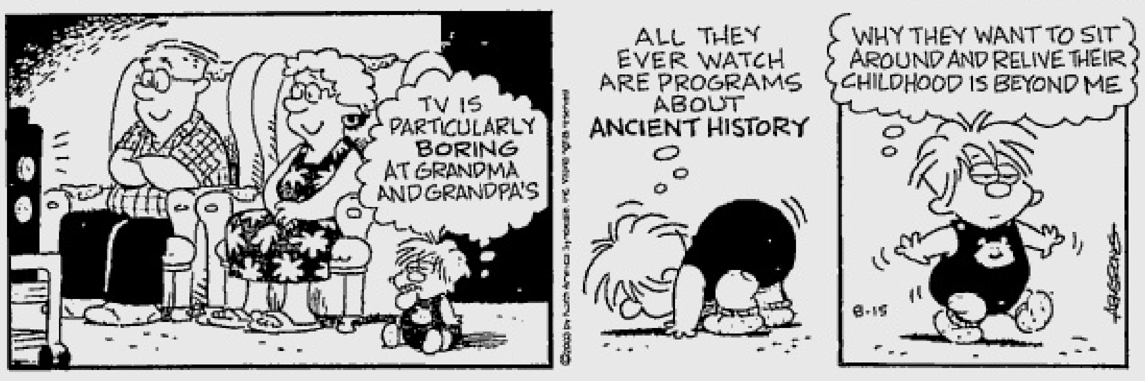

JASON, FOR THE FIFTH TIME, IT'S SOCCER BALLS YOU WANT TO HIT WITH YOUR HEAD.
I KNOW!

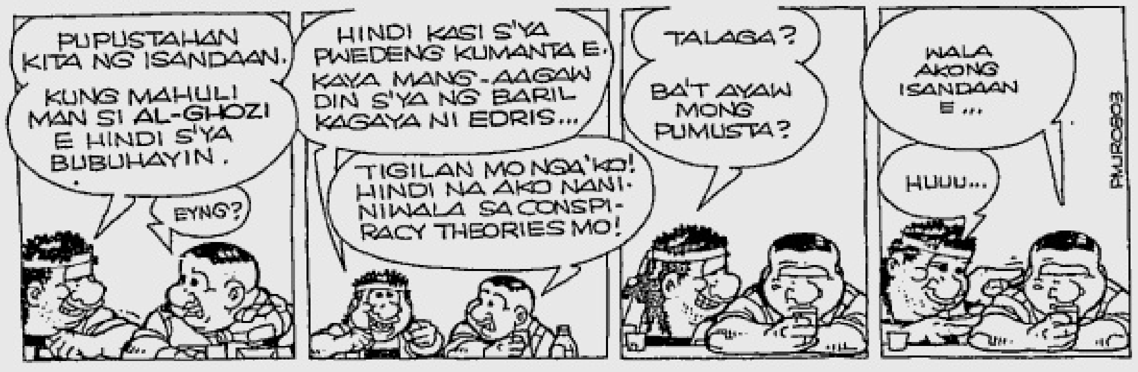
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NASAAN KA GRINGOOOOOO!
KELANGAN LUMABAS KA NA?
BAKIT?
HAHANAPIN KO PA SI AL-GHOZI, E!

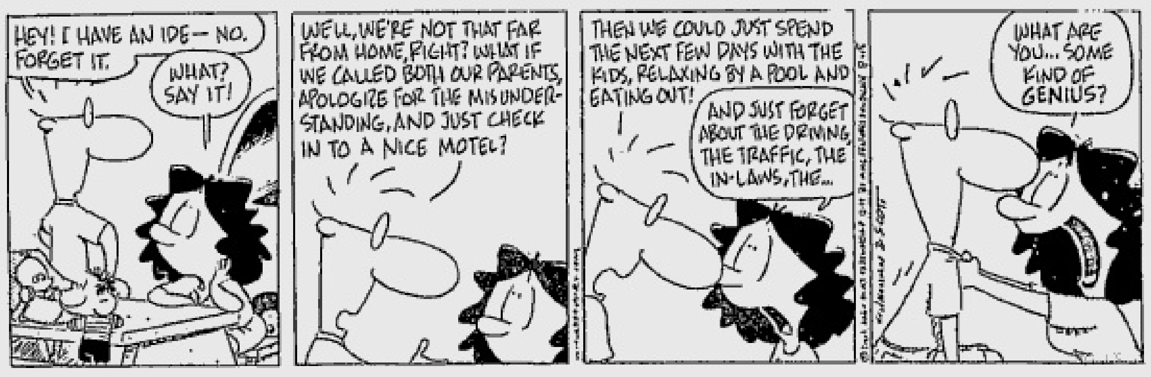
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


TV IS PARTICULARLY BORING AT GRANDMA AND GRANDPA'S
ALL THEY EVER WATCH ARE PROGRAMS ABOUT ANCIENT HISTORY
WHY THEY WANT TO SIT AROUND AND RELIVE THEIR CHILDHOOD IS BEYOND ME

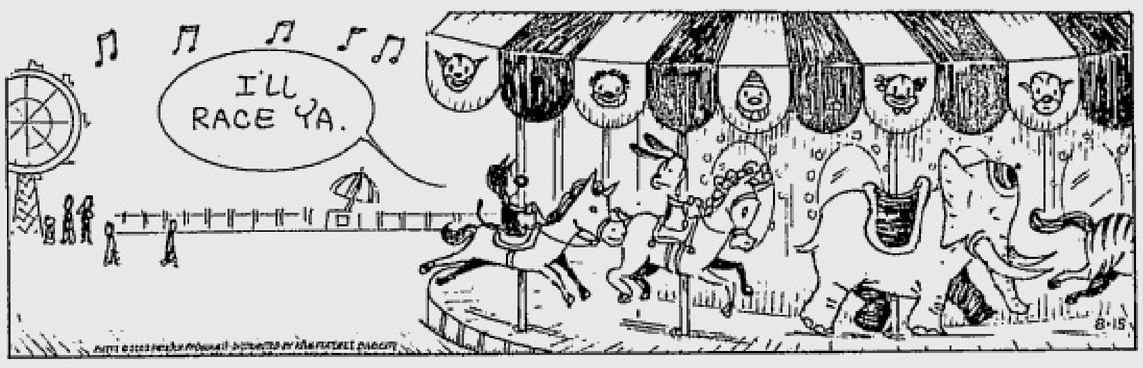
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PUPUSTAHAN KITA NG ISANDAAN.
KUNG MAHULI MAN SI AL-GHOZI E HINDI S'YA BUBUHAYIN.
EYNG?
HINDI KASI S'YA PWEDENG KUMANTA E. KAYA MANG-AAGAW DIN S'YA NG BARIL KAGAYA NI EDRIS...
TIGILAN MO NGA'KO! HINDI NA AKO NANINIWALA SA CONSPIRACY THEORIES MO!
TALAGA?
BA'T AYAW MONG PUMUSTA?
WALA AKONG ISANDAAN E...
HUUU...

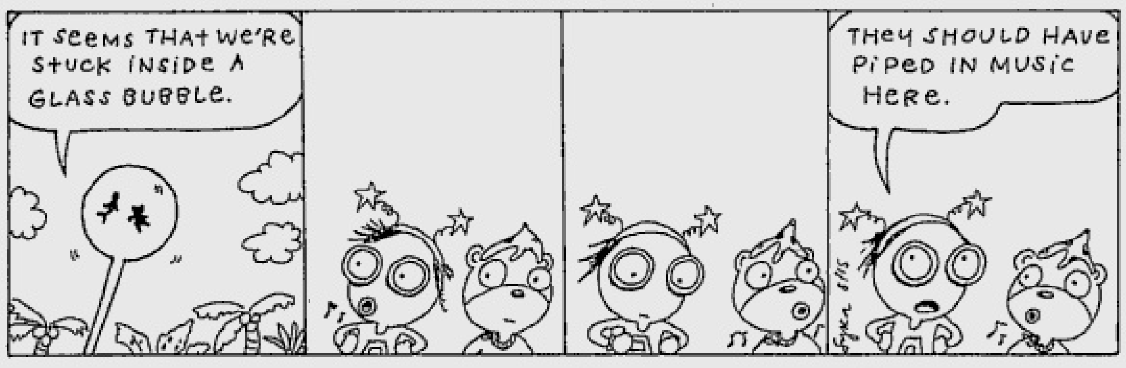
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HEY! I HAVE AN IDE— NO. FORGET IT.
WHAT? SAY IT!
WELL, WE'RE NOT THAT FAR FROM HOME, RIGHT? WHAT IF WE CALLED BOTH OUR PARENTS, APOLOGIZE FOR THE MISUNDERSTANDING, AND JUST CHECK IN TO A NICE MOTEL?
THEN WE COULD JUST SPEND THE NEXT FEW DAYS WITH THE KIDS, RELAXING BY A POOL AND EATING OUT!
AND JUST FORGET ABOUT THE DRIVING, THE TRAFFIC, THE IN-LAWS, THE...
WHAT ARE YOU... SOME KIND OF GENIUS?

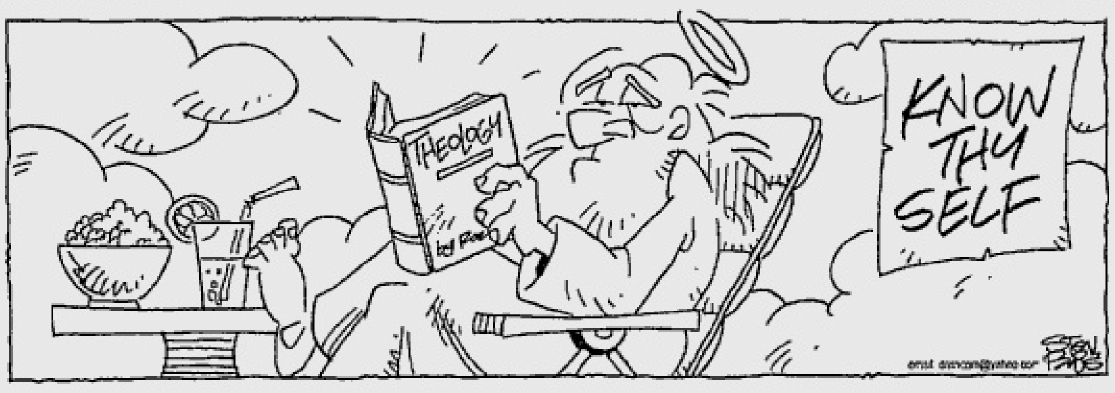
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



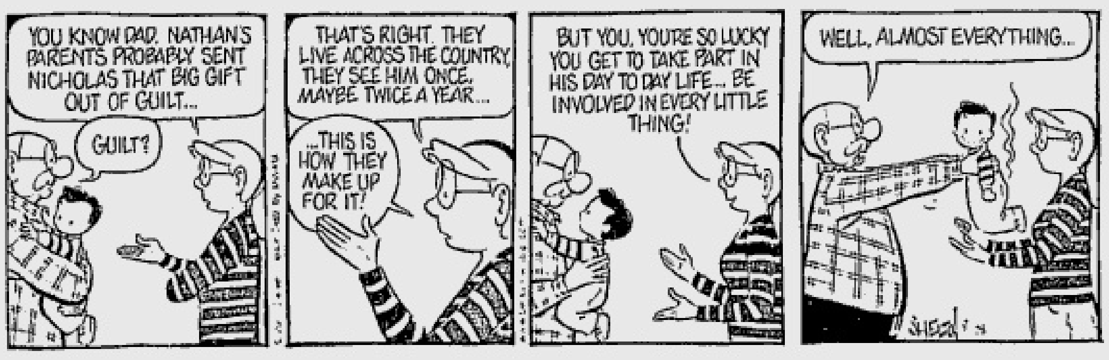
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


IT SEEMS THAT WE'RE STUCK INSIDE A GLASS BUBBLE.
THEY SHOULD HAVE PIPED IN MUSIC HERE.

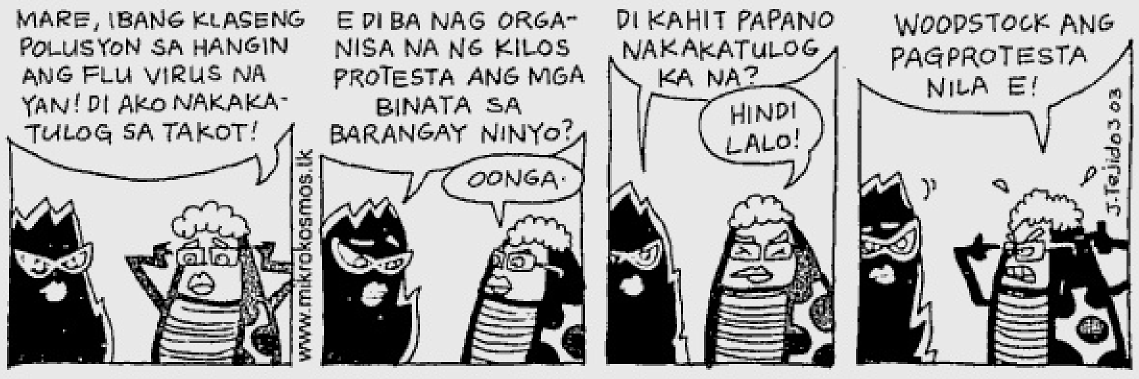
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THEOLOGY
by Pao
KNOW THY SELF

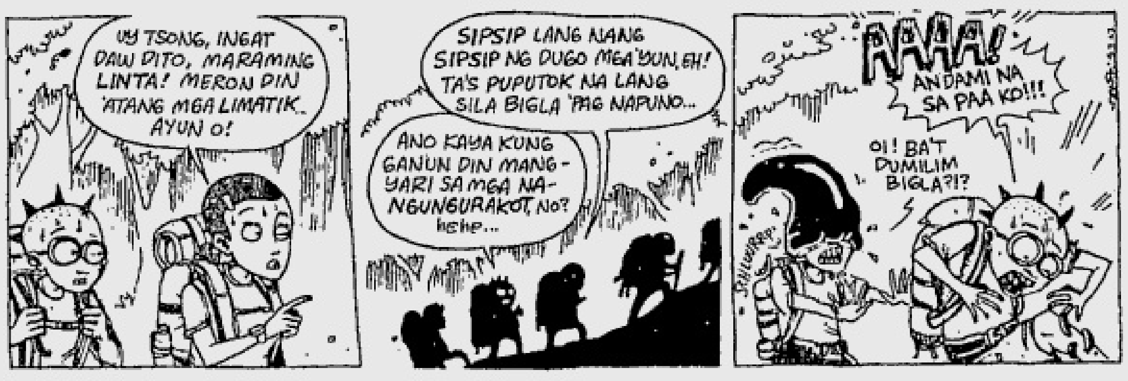
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU KNOW DAD, NATHAN'S PARENTS PROBABLY SENT NICHOLAS THAT BIG GIFT OUT OF GUILT...
GUILT?
THAT'S RIGHT. THEY LIVE ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THEY SEE HIM ONCE, MAYBE TWICE A YEAR...
...THIS IS HOW THEY MAKE UP FOR IT!
BUT YOU, YOU'RE SO LUCKY YOU GET TO TAKE PART IN HIS DAY TO DAY LIFE... BE INVOLVED IN EVERY LITTLE THING!
WELL, ALMOST EVERYTHING...

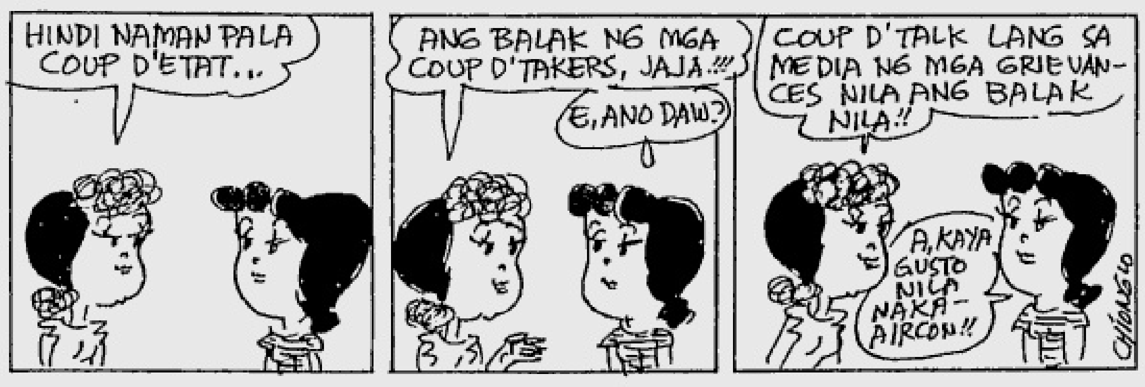
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MARE, IBANG KLASENG POLUSYON SA HANGIN ANG FLU VIRUS NA YAN! DI AKO NAKAKATULOG SA TAKOT!
www.mikrokosmos.lk
E DI BA NAG ORGANISA NA NG KILOS PROTESTA ANG MGA BINATA SA BARANGAY NINYO?
OONGA.
DI KAHIT PAPANO NAKAKATULOG KA NA?
HINDI LALO!
WOODSTOCK ANG PAGPROTESTA NILA E!
J.Tejido 03

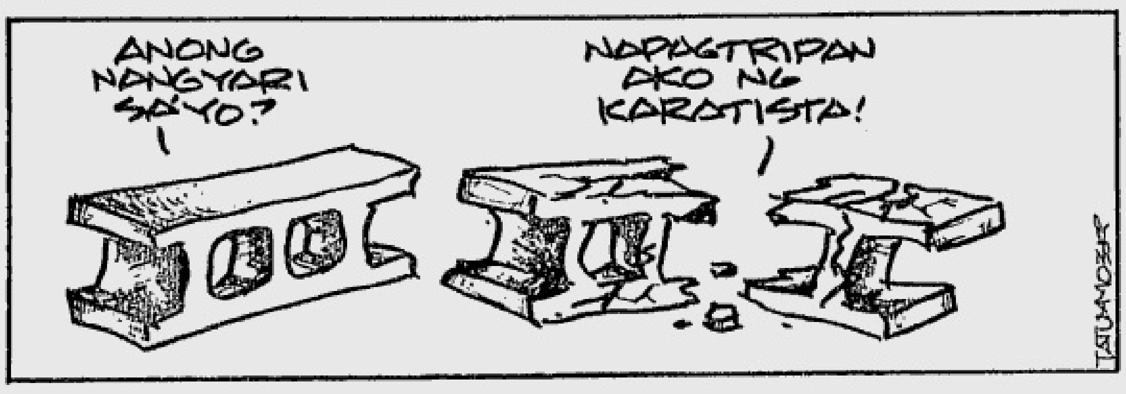
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


UY TSONG, INGAT DAW DITO, MARAMING LINTA! MERON DIN 'ATANG MGA LIMATIK. AYUN O!
SIPSIP LANG NANG SIPSIP NG DUGO MGA'YUN, EH! TA'S PUPUTOK NA LANG SILA BIGLA 'PAG NAPUNO...
ANO KAYA KUNG GANUN DIN MANGYARI SA MGA NANGUNGURAKOT, NO? hehe...
AAAA!
ANDAMI NA SA PAA KO!!!
OI! BA'T DUMILIM BIGLA?!?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HINDI NAMAN PALA COUP D'ETAT...
ANG BALAK NG MGA COUP D'TAKERS, JAJA.!!!
E, ANO DAW?
COUP D'TALK LANG SA MEDIA NG MGA GRIEVANCES NILA ANG BALAK NILA.!!
A, KAYA GUSTO NILA NAKA-AIRCON!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANONG NANGYARI SA'YO?
NAPAGTRIPAN AKO NG KARATISTA!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a regal manner and are a natural leader. You have a decisive, commanding style. You quickly see the big picture and the bottom line of things. You are generous and expansive. You often place great expectations upon yourself. The year ahead holds many exciting, fresh beginnings for you. Be bold!
Birthdate of: Ben Affleck, actor; Debra Messing, actress; Napoleon Bonaparte, French military leader and emperor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It has taken since 1996 to redefine yourself in many ways. Now you have to decide what your home situation is and what you will or will not commit to.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Since 1999, it's been a new ballgame for you. Try to find a little time by yourself to contemplate big changes, which might loom ahead for you (in your job or residence).

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Talk to a friend today, possibly a female friend, about your values. It will reduce the stress in your life if you feel you know where you stand on big issues.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): There are still loose details to be worked out with respect to shared property and joint holdings with somebody else. This is an excellent time to do this.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today's Aries Moon favors your Leo Sun. Do anything that is a bit out of the ordinary. You crave a little excitement and fresh learning in your life today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Attend to banking needs and tax matters today. Clear up loose details. You will feel better if you have fewer things nagging you in the back of your mind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today the Moon opposes your sign. This means discussions with others are significant; however, you have to be especially patient and diplomatic, because you have to give more than 50 percent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You find it easy to accomplish a lot at work today. Female coworkers can be especially supportive. Trust your intuition. Your gut instincts are accurate now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a wonderful day to party, flirt and just have fun. Make sure you schedule something lighthearted and pleasant into your day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Memories from your youth might bubble to the surface of your mind today in conversations with others. Whether or not you choose to speak about them out loud is entirely your business.

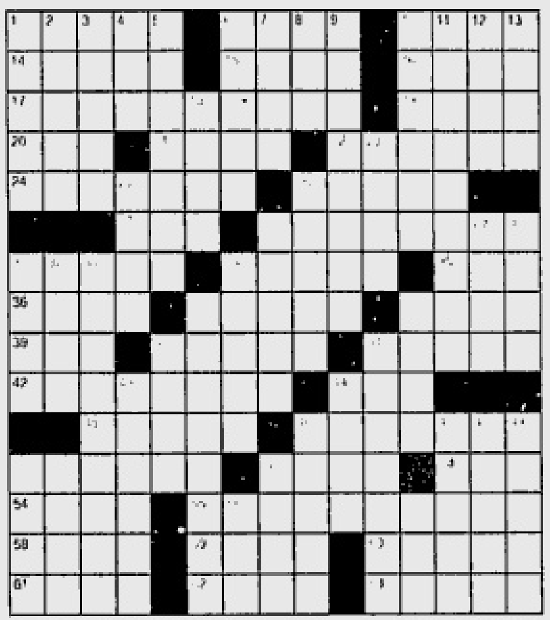
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day for shopping, taking short trips and talking to colleagues. Exchanges with siblings can be rewarding. People are a bit feisty and are ready to debate!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You definitely need to get more exercise. Tension has been building up within you, and it needs to have someplace to go.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Mindful
6 Further
10 Counterfeit
14 Doubtful gesture
15 Apply haphazardly
16 Solitary
17 Face-saving disdain
19 Blues singer James
20 Priest's robe
21 Frolic
22 Neckwear accessory
24 Grazing spots
26 Battleship salute
27 Woods rival
28 Sank, as the 4-ball
31 Gem
34 Water spectacle
35 Ms. Gardner
36 Grade sch.
37 Putter Palmer
38 Editorial note
39 Erhard's program
40 State one's case
41 Give a ring
42 Clock swinger
44 Pair
45 Exposed
46 Calls the shots
50 Flashy
52 Aquatic propellers
53 Buchwald or Garfunkel
54 Rich source
55 Quitting option
58 Internet addresses: abbr.
59 Arabian Sea gulf
60 Just right
61 Scrapes (by)
62 Speech in writing
63 Sample

DOWN
1 Indian state
2 Intact
3 Island off Venezuela
4 Capek play
5 Chinese appetizer
6 John or John Quincy
7 Northern Scandinavian
8 Writer Grafton
9 Impediment
10 LP holder
11 Controversial issue
12 Freeze front?
13 Spiteful
18 Theater seating
23 Sorts
25 Judge
26 Unshakeable
28 "2001" airline
29 Uniform
30 See regularly
31 GI transport
32 Additional
33 Ineffectual one
34 Father of psychoanalysis
37 Homeless tom
38 Clog or pump
40 Green stroke
41 Chase
43 Coercion
44 Effort
46 Why __ I think of that?
47 Bake-sale items
48 Tasty goody
49 Flair
50 Slide sideways
51 Governmental largesse
52 Show off one's muscles
56 Lofty poem
57 Letters on vitamins



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL

8/15/03

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	L	M	■	S	H	I	F	T	■	A	S	A	P
O	D	O	R	■	T	U	T	O	R	■	P	T	A	H
D	E	C	O	■	O	L	E	R	E	D	H	E	A	D
A	N	I	C	K	N	A	M	E	■	D	I	V	A	S
■	■	■	T	E	E	S	■	■	M	A	D	E	■	■
A	L	M	O	N	D	■	B	R	A	Y	■	R	P	I
B	A	R	B	S	■	F	O	O	L	■	S	E	E	D
H	I	D	E	■	B	I	G	A	I	■	W	E	R	E
O	N	E	P	■	R	A	I	N	■	L	E	N	D	S
R	E	M	■	H	A	T	E	■	[illegible]	E	E	O	U	T
■	■	O	W	F	I	■	■	[illegible]	I	S	T	■	■	■
A	H	C	E	L	■	G	O	L	D	F	N	B	O	Y
B	A	R	D	O	F	A	V	O	N	■	E	A	S	E
C	R	A	G	■	A	G	A	V	E	■	S	I	L	L
S	A	T	E	■	D	A	L	E	Y	■	S	T	O	P

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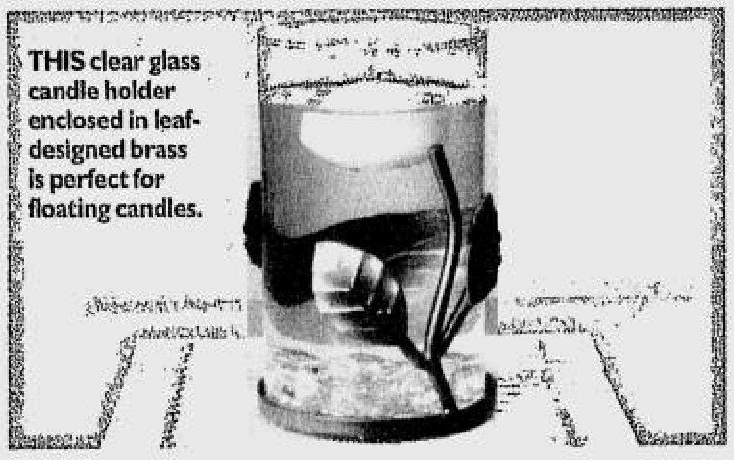
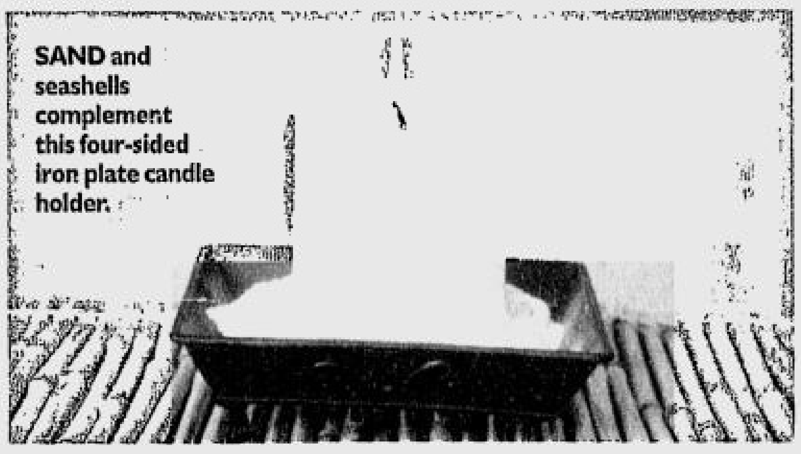
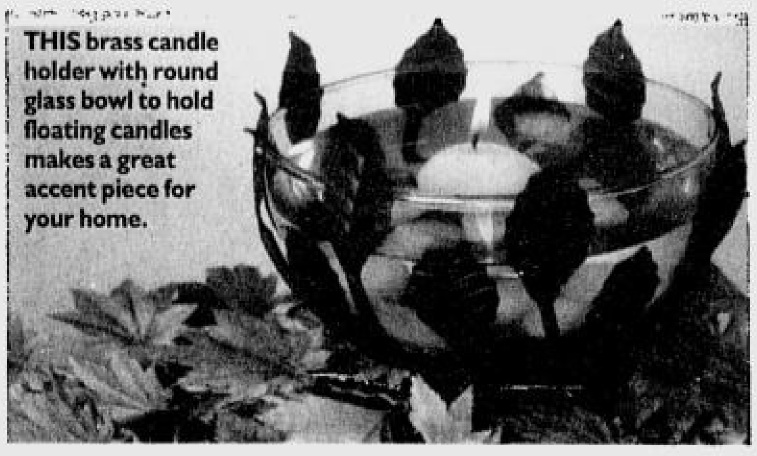
8/15/03



THIS clear glass candle holder enclosed in leaf-designed brass is perfect for floating candles.



SAND and seashells complement this four-sided iron plate candle holder.



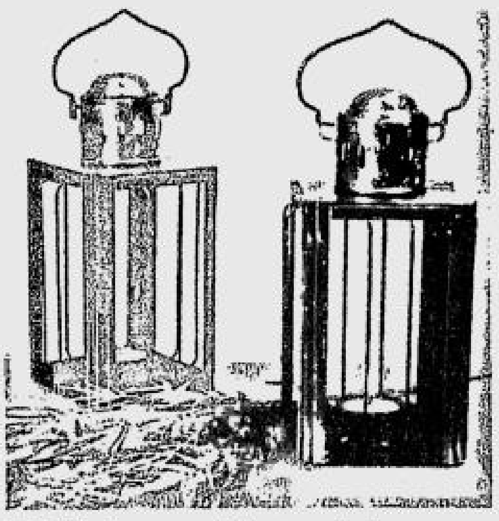
THIS brass candle holder with round glass bowl to hold floating candles makes a great accent piece for your home.

Bright lights

OUR Home, the lifestyle store, shows candles in a new light, so to speak—in exquisite iron and brass candleholders.

Showing off scented candles from Bright Ideas are Latin-inspired iron candelabra, brass gas lanterns with bronze finish, and art deco-inspired leaf accents in brass.

Our Home is at SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall, SM City Bacoor, SM City Pampanga, and SM City Iloilo.



TEA light brass candle lanterns in bronze finish

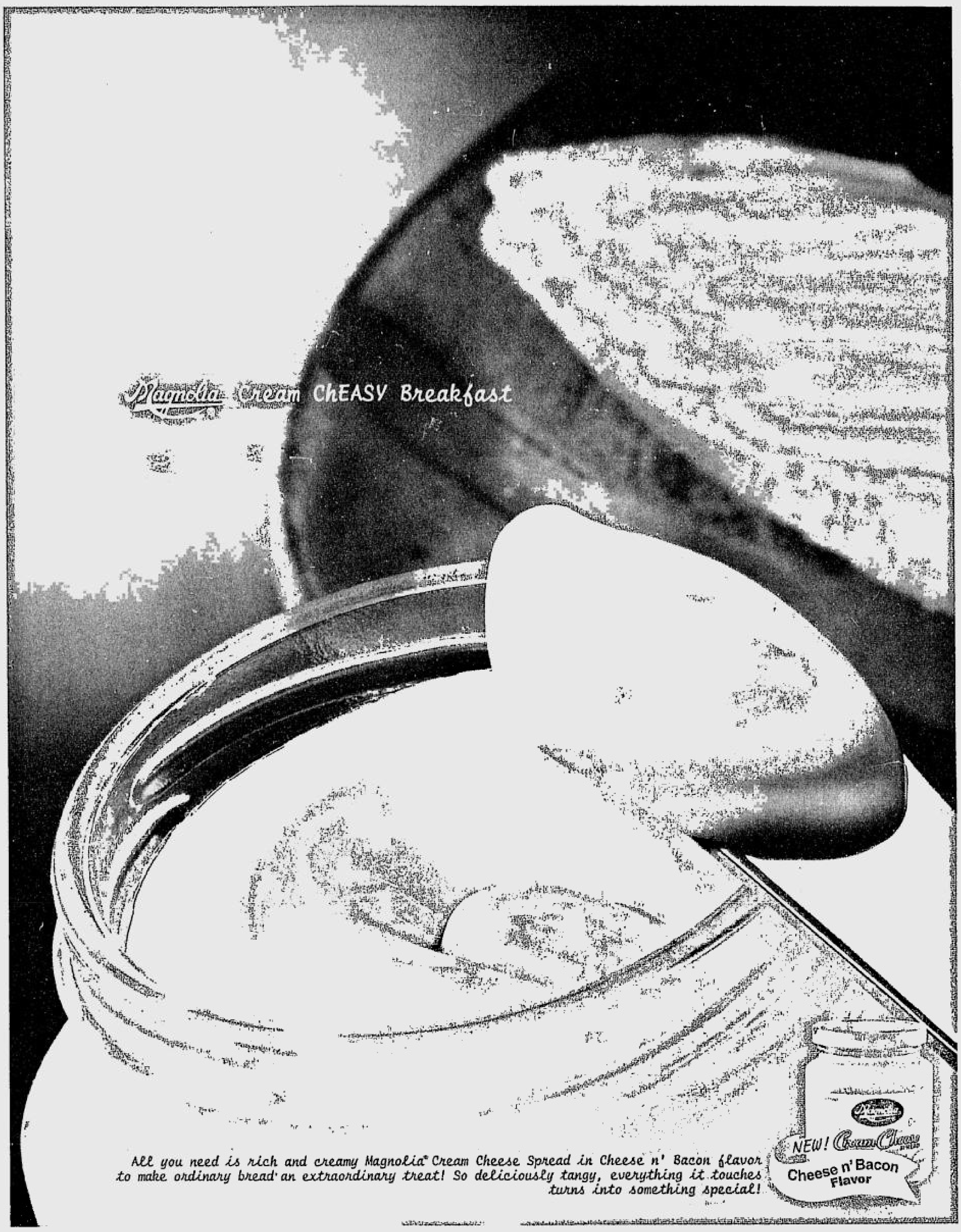
Sidewalk sale at the mall

THE ROBINSONS malls will hold their first "3-Day Sidewalk Sale" on Aug. 15-17. All shoppers will be treated to as much as 70-percent discounts on several items.

Shoppers can see and hear barkers roaming around announcing the sale and other attractions. In addition, the Robinsons malls will be giving away 12 units of 21" Color TV in a raffle draw. Cardholders of Unionbank Visa will have greater chances of winning if they make one-time charged purchases.

Call 6327672, 6337641 to 90 locals 175 or 176.

AWARD-WINNER. The garden landscape of Llora Reyes and Roel dela Peña won first prize at the Fourth Horticulture and Food Festival held at the Capiz Multi-Purpose Cooperative garden in Roxas City.



Magnolia Cream ChEASY Breakfast

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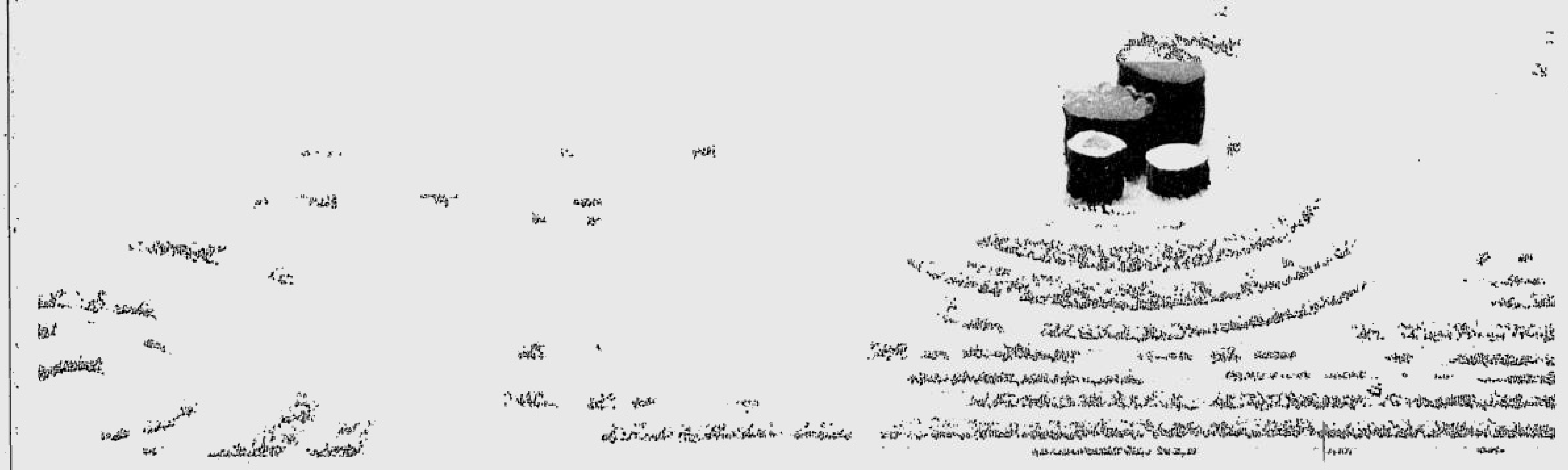
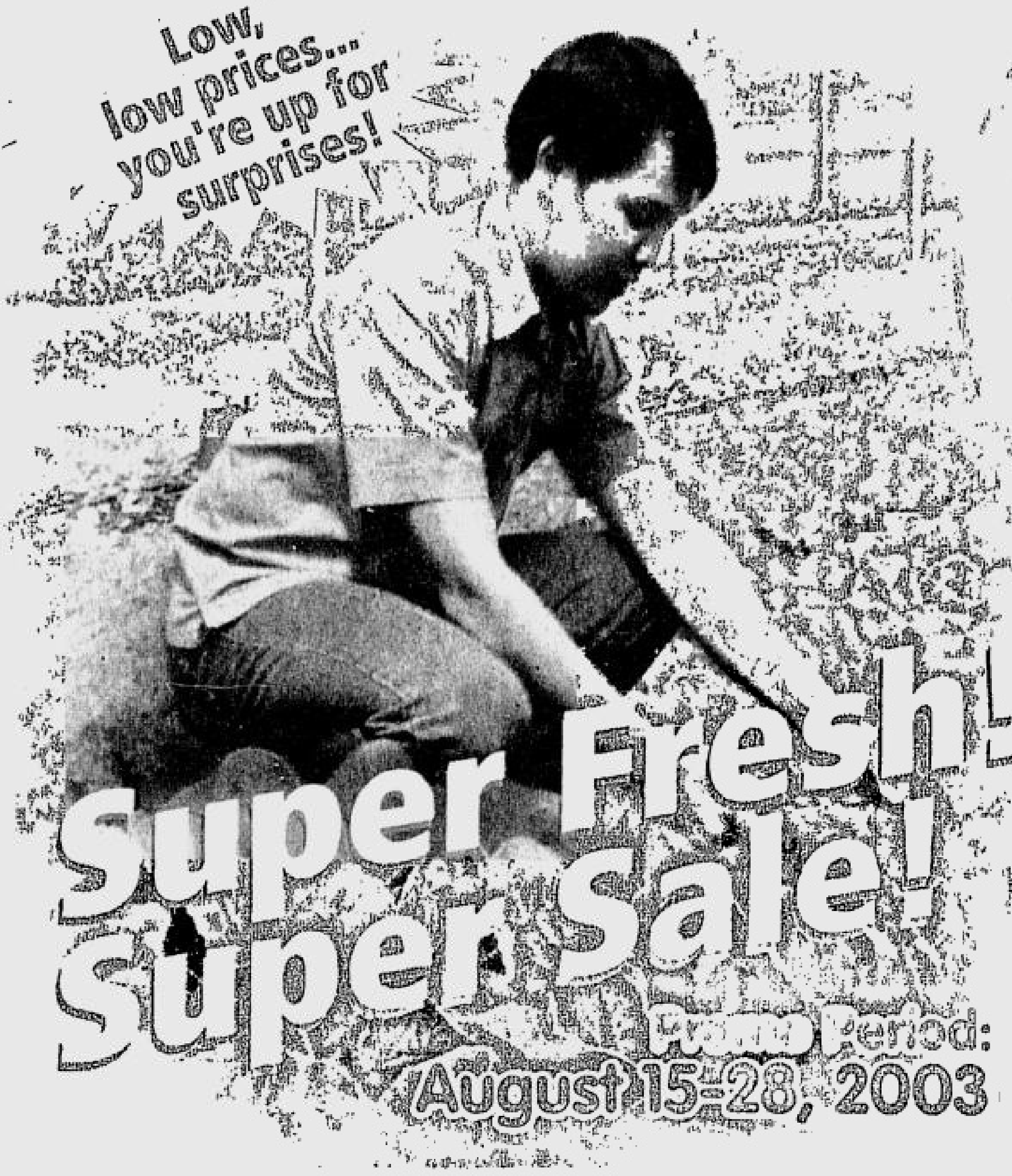
NEW! Cream Cheese
Cheese n' Bacon Flavor



Everything is authentic Japanese, from the food to the mood. EDSA Shangri-La brings back the glory of Japanese dining with the opening of Nishiki. From the Zen sculpture to the bamboo accents, the flavor of Japan surrounds you as you dine at the sushi bar, Teppanyaki tables, or any of our private rooms. You'll enjoy new signature dishes, as well as the traditional favorites, prepared by our renowned Japanese chefs. Call 634-7373 or 633-8888 ext 2738 and 2739 and we'll reserve a setting for you.

nishiki
Japanese cuisine



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Save 17%

BAGUIO BEANS
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P 50.00 /kilo
Save 24%

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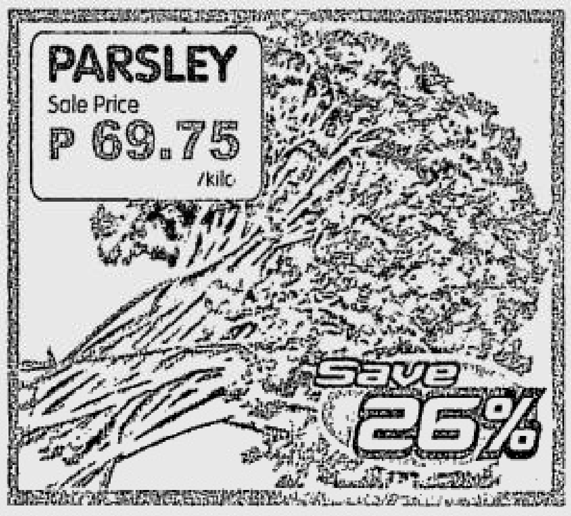
Sale Price
P 158.00 /kilo
Save 13%

GRAPES
Flame Seedless
Sale Price
P 160.00 /kilo
Save 22%

CARROTS
Regular
Sale Price
P 40.00 /kilo
Save 28%

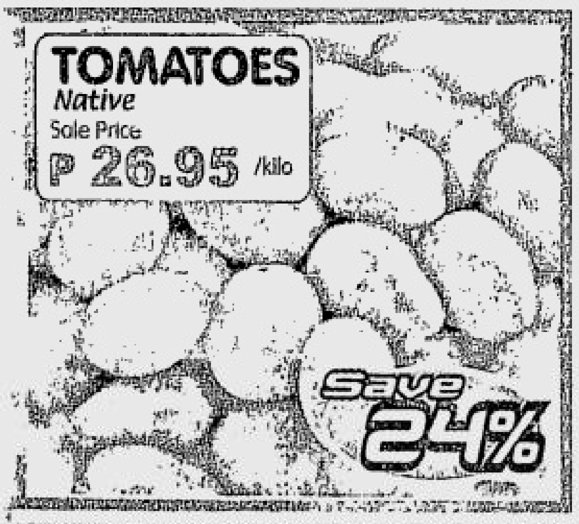
CHICKEN
Wings
Sale Price
P 89.99 /kilo
Save 23%

ORANGES
Navel
Sale Price
P 13.00 /each
Save 23%



PARSLEY
Sale Price
P 69.75 /kilo
Save 26%

CHICKEN
Breast
Sale Price
P 89.99 /kilo
Save 15%



TOMATOES
Native
Sale Price
P 26.95 /kilo
Save 24%

MANGOES
Ripe Large
Sale Price
P 50.00 /kilo
Save 31%

GROUND PORK
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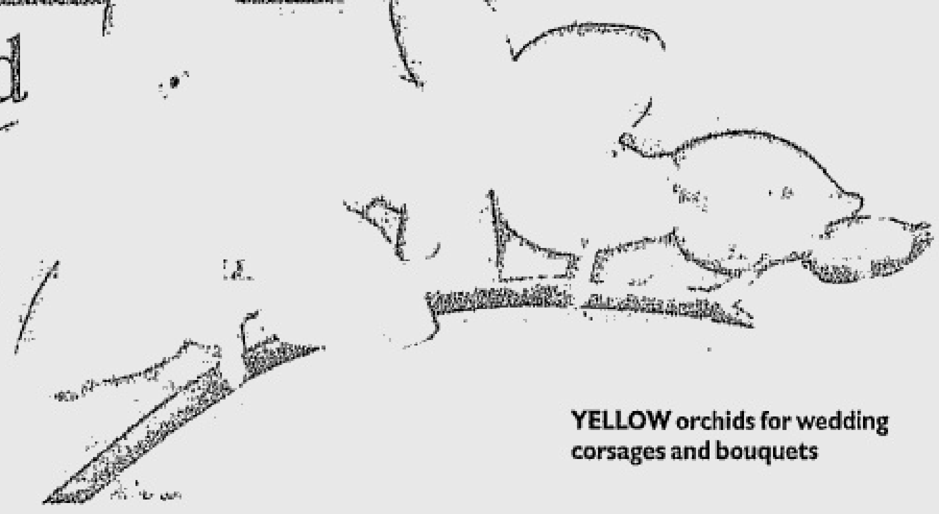
Ali Mall 912-6125 | Farmers Plaza 911-1691 | Alabang 807-1996 | Fairview 430-8095 | Marikina 941-0979 | Star Mall 722-2714 | Sta. Rosa, Laguna (049) 541-1615
Taytay 665-2410 | Libertad 834-2788 to 90 | Katipunan 928-3144 | Mercedes, Pasig 747-9272-4 | EDSA-Taft 833-6560 | Zabarte 961-4600 | Magallanes 852-8090

Per DTI-NCR [illegible]

LIFESTYLE Home

What you should know about growing orchids



YELLOW orchids for wedding corsages and bouquets

COLLECTING and growing orchids may be interesting and exciting, but not everyone succeeds at it.

Natividad Go, president and general manager of Natividad Orchids and Ornamental Farm, gives reasons why many beginners fail.

Go notes that many beginners buy plants indiscriminately without considering the conditions and features of the place where the orchids will be grown.

Orchids have different growth and blooming requirements. Terete and semi-terete vandas, as well as cane type dendrobiums, prefer sunny, well-ventilated areas with high humidity. Strap leaf vandas, "phal-type" dendrobiums and cattleyas like shadier but well-ventilated sections protected from too much rain.

Phalaenopsis is very sensitive and should be kept away from harsh sun, wind and rain. It should be grown under plastic roofing with 70-percent shade and very good air circulation to prevent fungi infection.

Beginners often lack the time to attend to the plants, leaving them at the mercy of Mother Nature or entrusted to someone who also does not know what to do. Persons who do not have the time to tend plants should avoid orchids.

People often do not know about proper potting, repotting, transplanting, watering, feeding, pest-control, etc. Some think watering plants everyday is enough.

Others assume orchids can be planted on ordinary soil.

Beginners also fall victim to unscrupulous sellers and get sick or infected plants, wrong information, inferior breeds or "trash" plants, or wrong species.

Would-be orchid collectors should be careful where they buy their plants.

If you want to know more about growing orchids the correct way, visit Go at the Natividad Orchids and Ornamental Farm. The farm is holding a grand exhibit and sale, especially of the *waling-waling*, at No. 2 Valdefuente St., Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City, Aug. 30-Sept. 30.

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-Ranudo St.,Cebu City
-Lahug St.,Cebu City
ROXAS CITY-Washington St.
ORMOC CITY-Real St.
ILOILO-Jalandoni St.,Ext.Jaro
-Quezon St.
BACOLOD-Rizal St.
-P.Burgos St.
TAGBILARAN-CPG Avenue
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Applying for US tourist visa

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Since the elementary grades and up to now that I am a college senior, I have always been an honor student, saving my parents money they would have otherwise used for my school fees.

My father, a successful businessman, has promised to send me to the United States for two weeks as a graduation gift if I graduate *magna cum laude*, or to Rome if I am a *summa*.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

Last week, during my birthday, he said that since he was sure I would graduate with honors, he might even give me a trip to the US as a Christmas gift. You see, I am an only child.

I have an uncle who is an immigrant in California so there will be no problem (about accommodations) in the US.

Can you please tell me how to apply for a tourist visa? My father does not have one. He is always busy with his business, and the only time he went abroad was to Hong Kong with my mom when they celebrated their silver wedding anniversary two years ago.

ED

I realize that the reason you did not give your full address is you want to remain incognito. Times are really different nowadays. One has to remain incognito to avoid pickpockets, etc.

To find out how to apply for a tourist visa, dial the US Embassy trunkline at 5231001 or 5286300. Listen to the tape recording, making sure you have paper and pen so you can write down the telephone numbers you are to call.

To be connected to the Non-Immigrant Visa Call Center, you have to call PLDT-1909-101-0000. If you are using Bayantel, you will be given a different number. Your phone bill will reflect P18 per minute, plus the NDD charge. The customer service representative of the US Embassy is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Good luck.

Pregnant and happy

I am in my seventh month (of pregnancy), and my husband and I are so excited. We have been married for five years, but it is only now that this blessing has come to us. I have resigned from my job so that I will be a full-time housewife and mother.

These past weeks, I would sometimes visit a friend who had just given birth to her first baby. I enjoy watching her breastfeed. Mother and child are both in bed. The mother lies on her left side and the baby sucks from her left breast. After an hour, when the baby cries, she lies on her right side and lets the baby suck from her right breast. She told me that to have plenty of breast milk she boils chicken with unripe papaya, and drinks as much as she can of the soup.

Did you also breastfeed your children? Is chicken soup the best? I regularly go to my obstetrician for check-up but I keep forgetting to ask her about this.

SHEILA

The papaya-chicken soup is correct, but I am glad you also mentioned how she breastfeeds her baby.

What she does is wrong. You have to sit up and position your baby the right way. Your baby should face you completely: head, chest, genitals and knees. Grip the baby so that the buttocks are in one hand and the head is in the bend of your elbow. Put your other hand under your breast, supporting it with your four fingers.

If your baby doesn't do anything, tickle the baby's lower lip with your nipple to get it to open its mouth wide. When the mouth opens, pull the baby's body in quickly so that the mouth is fixed on the areola. Each feeding time should be from both breasts.

Yes, I breastfed my children. And, yes, make sure you consult your obstetrician and ask for further instructions. You have to burp your baby after feeding, but ask your doctor how to do it.

Marriage encounter

You published recently a marriage encounter weekend. My friends and I would like to know when the next MEE is and where.

KEN

The Servants of the Holy Spirit Catholic Community will hold the next MEE Seminar at Mother Francisca Spirituality Center, Siena Retreat House, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, starting Friday evening, Aug. 22 and ending Sunday afternoon, Aug. 24.

As you know, the MEE is designed to renew marriage by giving spouses an opportunity to rediscover each other and by rekindling the love relationship of a couple with God in the center.

Call Ruby at 0918-9198071 or Guy Hernandez at 9274415 or 0918-9278865.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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FRESH PICK-IDEA
Maggi BEEF KNU

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16 cups water
1/2 cup tomato, quartered
1/2 cup onions, quartered
2 cups sliced puso ng saging (250 g.)
2 cups pechay tagalog, cut up (100 g.)
3 pcs. long green chili
1 (54 g.) MAGGI Beef Sinigang Flavor Mix

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CKLE SINIGANG
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'Flagship trees' face extinction

WHEN the President gave her latest State of the Nation Address (the day after the attempted coup), we waited for her report on the state of our environment.

But we waited in vain, which should not have surprised us as that's how it's been since her first Sona. So we turned to the Internet instead for news and information on how nature, in general, is faring. And the news that caught our attention makes the MMDA traffic schemes on Katipunan Avenue, Q.C., pale in comparison, even as it should give that metro agency a lesson or two.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

There is, we learn, a Global Tree Campaign being undertaken by international conservation groups together with the United Nations Environmental Program-World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC). The two groups are compiling data on the world's threatened tree species because initial findings tell a horror tale: More than 8,000 tree species (these are species, not individual trees, mind you), or about 10 percent of the world's total, are being threatened with extinction.

The findings come from a report submitted by the United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) titled "Toward a Global Tree Conservation Atlas" published this month.

> The latest UN report says more than 8,000 tree species or about 10 percent of the world's total are becoming extinct

National trees

The report highlights the plight of trees referred to as the "flagship species" or national trees (often, indigenous or endemic species), such as the Araucaria araucana of Chile, also known as the monkey puzzle tree; Caesalpina echinata, called Pau Brazil, being the national tree of Brazil; Sweitenia macrophylla, Brazilian mahogany; Cinnamomum cebuense, Cebu cinnamon; and Baillonella toxisperma, known as Moabi, used as decorative timber and animal feed and for the manufacture of cosmetics.

An important element of UNEP-WCMC's information campaign is the development of a mapping program leading to a proposed World Atlas of Threatened Trees.

The campaign focuses on flagship tree species because these are particularly crucial in the conservation of ecosystems and landscapes, and they are hardly ever conserved in the wild. Local people will thus be able to carry out rescue and sustainable use operations.

Damage to the Chilean monkey puzzle tree was caused by a forest fire over a year ago which destroyed 71 percent of the species in the Malloco National Reserve, some of which were 2,000 years old. Cristian Echeverra of the UNEP-WCMC in Cambridge detected the damage using remote sensing from satellite images.

Alarming rate

Echeverra's research, a pioneering effort, covers the last 25 years and assesses the rate native forests are disappearing. The rate, he notes, is alarming. Because the study includes tropical forests, we can be sure ours are very much part of the statistics.

The research reveals other implications to the world's forests. According to Mark Collins, director of UNEP-WCMC, the situation of the monkey puzzle tree shows that fragmentation of wild forest and replantation with potentially invasive foreign species are major threats, demonstrating the urgency of managing forests sustainably.

In 1990, the monkey puzzle tree was declared a protected species in Chile and it was forbidden to cut it. But as the tree is highly prized for its timber, the government was pressured to permit logging of the burned forest.

Echeverra warns that if logging continues, then human-caused fires may increase. A Defra-funded project is helping Chileans to establish a tree nursery after the fire. But, he says, it will need experimentation to develop successful techniques and at least 200 years before the trees mature and produce seeds.

Obviously, there are lessons here for the Philippines. Let us pray we learn them—fast.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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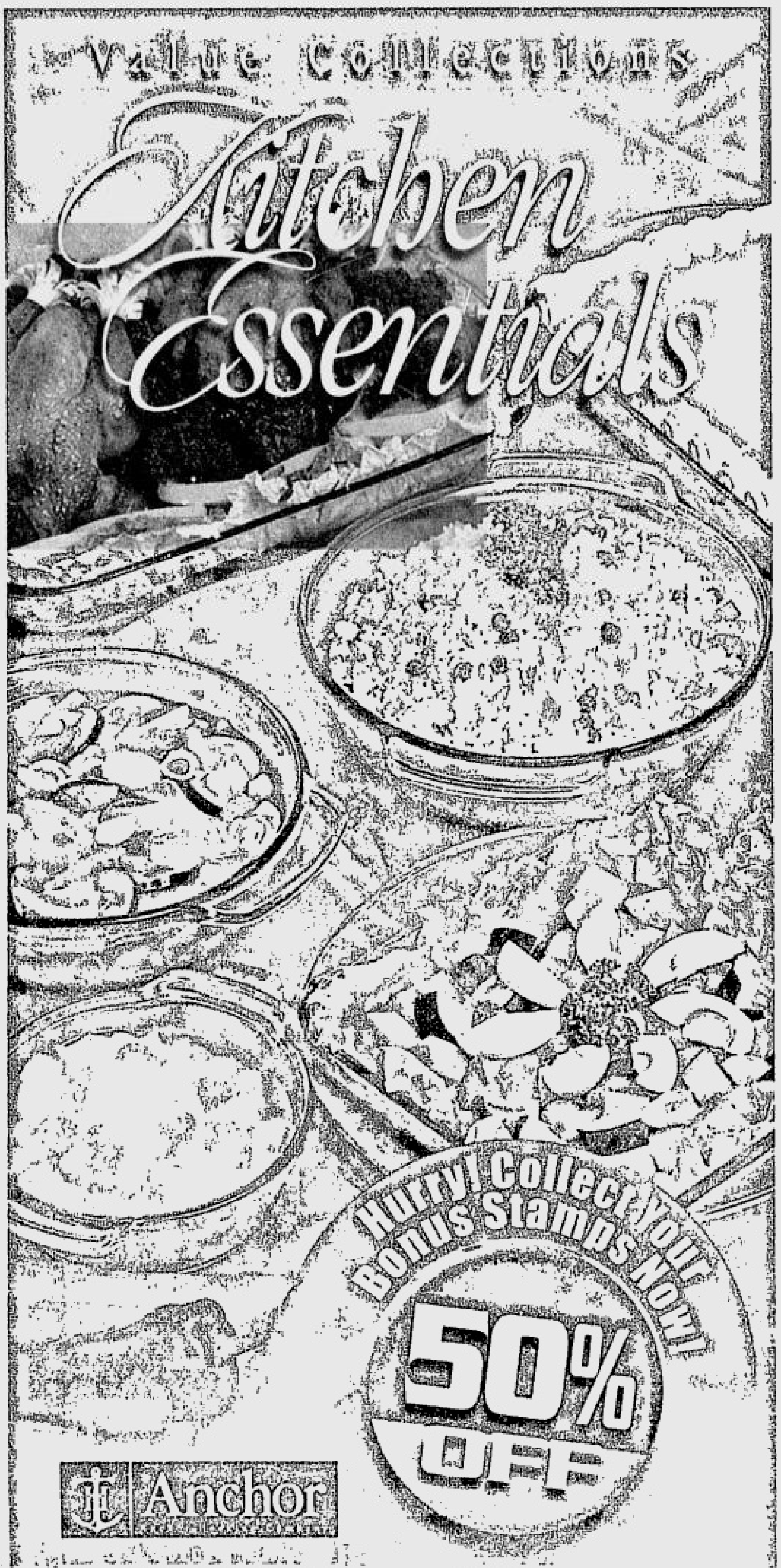

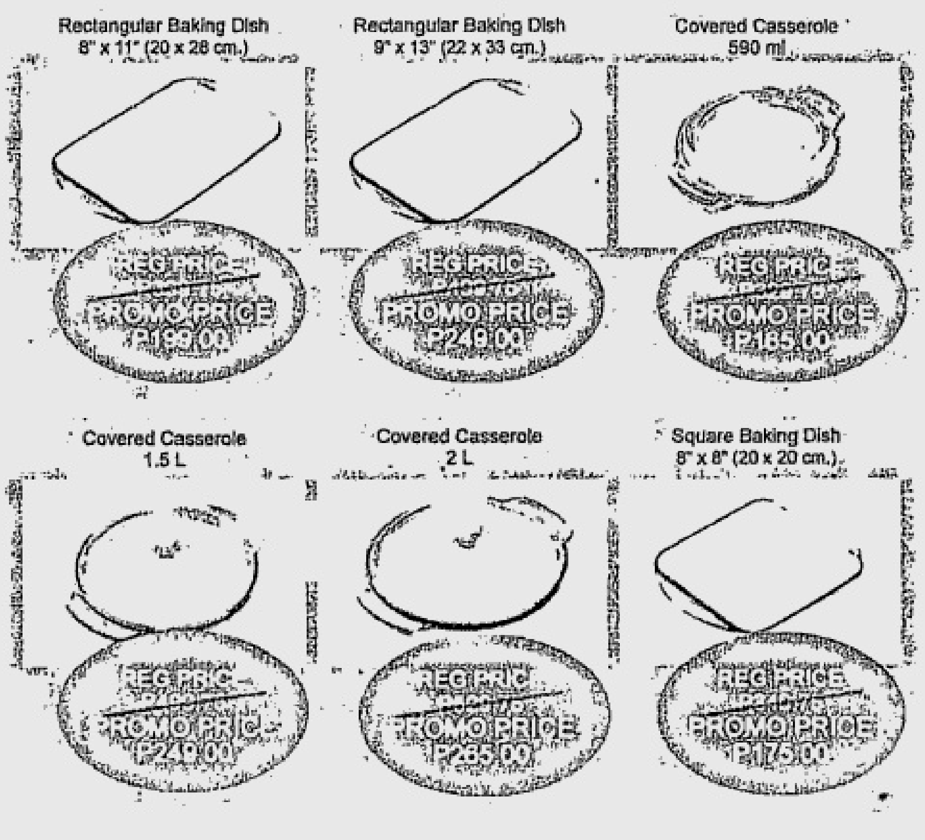

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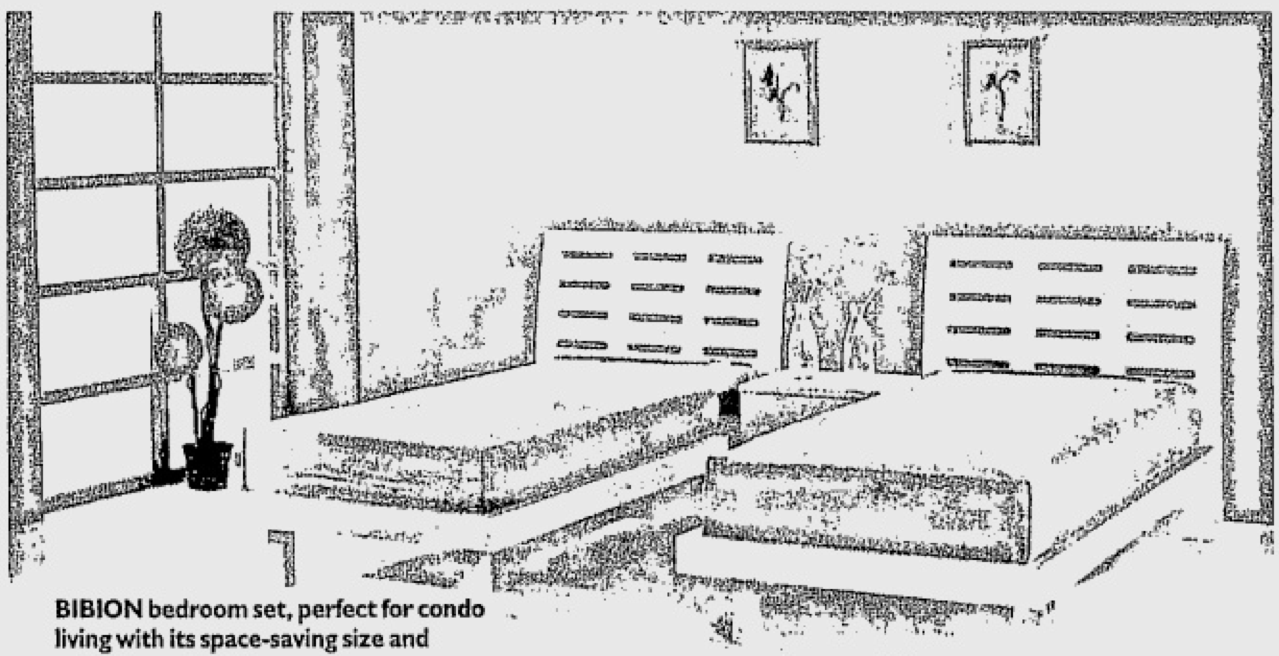
Furniture that's casually elegant

BLIMS Fine Furniture's latest line consists of casually elegant pieces.

The new Apple Home Collection boasts of clean-lined, light-colored, contemporary sets for the living room and bedroom, as well as television sideboards and bar counters. It also features some mixed-media designs—a combination of wood, fabric and metal, for instance.

Included in the Apple Home Collection are the Treviso and Ital Junior Sets—elegantly crafted yet space-saving bunk beds complete with study area, cabinets and compartments.

The Apple Home Collection is exclusively distributed by Blims Fine Furniture, the first and one of the biggest one-stop furniture centers in the country.



BIBION bedroom set, perfect for condo living with its space-saving size and natural wood finish

Demos at hardware stores

HANDYMAN and Handyman Do It Best will conduct a series of instructional demonstrations.

Schedule of the demos follows:

Cleaning Techniques for the Modern Housewife sponsored by Scotch Brite, Handyman Do it Best Metro East, Aug. 16-17 and Aug. 30-31.

Security Systems for Your Homes sponsored by Faire International at Handyman Robinsons Galleria, Aug. 22-24.

Application of Flexto Seal sponsored by Hangang, Handyman Riverbanks, until Aug. 27.

Meanwhile, take advantage of Handyman and Handyman Do It Best's Hot Buy of the Month—Boysen's white latex-based paints, and get a free three-inch brush for every one gallon purchased.

Handyman and Handyman Do It Best branches are located at Robinsons malls, Waltermart stores and leading shopping centers nationwide.

Handyman Do It Best Home Center store has just opened in Robinsons Place Dasmariñas Cavite.

Opening soon are outlets in Robinsons Place in the cities of Lipa and Angeles, and in Waltermart Plaridel, Bulacan.

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Also in these participating outlets: Island Photo Glorietta 4, Park Square, SM SouthMall • **Kameraworld** Alabang Town Center, All Mall, Festival Mall, Greenbelt, Robinsons Ermita, Shangri-La Plaza, SM Manila, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa • **Kodak Image Center** Ayala Center Cebu, San Pedro Davao

New PowerShot G5

Looks Like a Digital Compact, Functions Like an SLR

5.0 MEGA PIXELS
Canon
CANON ZOOM LENS
PowerShot
G5

Canon announces the latest addition to their highly acclaimed PowerShot "G" series, the new G5 featuring a high-resolution, 5.0 megapixel CCD and an ultra-fast 4x optical zoom lens. This is the highest resolution offered to date in a Canon compact digital camera.

Although similar in overall appearance and function to previous PowerShot G-series cameras, the G5 sports a new all-black body design with refined controls that hint at the advanced technology inside. From the wide-aperture (f2.0) 4x optical zoom lens to its solid, 410 gram ergonomically designed body, the G5 is aimed at advanced amateurs and even professionals who want an all-in-one digital camera for serious photography.

Blurring the Line between Compact and SLR

"Canon is well known for its expertise in building SLR cameras, including the EOS-1Ds, our flagship digital SLR model with 11 million pixel resolution full size CMOS sensor," said Mr. Kazuto Ogawa, Director & General Manager, Consumer Imaging and Information Division of Canon Hongkong Co. Ltd.. "The PowerShot G5 was designed with SLR quality and flexibility built in to meet the needs of any shooting situation, without the need to carry a lot of equipment. It's a complete picture-taking system in a single product capable of professional results."

Advanced Optics, Advanced Digital Imaging Processor

The G5's high quality images originate in its superb ultra-fast Canon 7.2 - 28.8mm, f/2.0 - 3.0, 4x optical zoom lens. Consisting of eight elements in seven groups, including two aspherical lenses, it delivers sharp, high-contrast images throughout its zoom range, which is the equivalent of 35 - 140mm in 35mm terms. The G5 also provides up to 4x digital zoom, extending the reach to 560mm!

Images from the 5.0 megapixel CCD are processed by DIGIC, Canon's proprietary digital imaging processor which integrates several key functions including Auto Exposure, Auto Focusing and Auto White Balance to produce noise-free photos with better exposure and colour fidelity, while accelerating processing speed and extending battery life. Recording formats include 4 JPEG quality modes plus RAW mode for still photos, two quality settings for movie mode. FAT 12, FAT16 and FAT 32 formats are supported, and Type I and Type II CF slots are provided for Compact Flash or IBM Microdrive(tm) storage.

"By combining our advanced optical designs with our latest digital technology, we have achieved the highest quality photos possible from a compact digital camera," continued Mr. Ogawa. "Then we added some truly unique features for added creativity."

Complete Mastery of Light

In addition to three metering methods, (Evaluative, Center-weighted Average and Spot Metering), nine White Balance settings, and ten shooting modes including Shutter Priority, Aperture Priority and Manual, the G5 features Exposure Compensation (± 2 EV in 1/3-step increments) as well as Auto Exposure Bracketing to assure perfect results under all lighting conditions.

A built-in Neutral Density filter reduces light received by the CCD by approximately three f/stops, allowing unusually shallow depth-of-field in daylight photography and other special effects.

The built-in multi-mode flash can be set to three power levels: Strong, normal, and low, and users can choose from normal operation or 2nd Curtain Sync. mode, which fires the flash at the end of long exposures for interesting nighttime effects. Both these unique flash functions are retained when any of several optional Canon Speedlites are attached. Maximum flash sync. speed is 1/250 second and flash exposure compensation is also provided.

Another built-in tool for added creativity is Photo Effects Mode, which allows the user to select 5 different colour photo effects or Custom effects.

Flexible Viewing, FlexiZone™ Autofocus

A bright, 1.8" low-temperature polycrystalline silicon TFT color LCD shows 100% of the picture area. Flush with the back of the camera in its closed position, it can be extended from the body and rotated through 270° allowing the user great flexibility in viewing subjects while shooting from unusual angles. Brightness is adjustable to match viewing conditions, and menu items appear in a choice of twelve languages.

Unlike most cameras with fixed points for autofocusing, the G5 features Canon's FlexiZone AF system, allowing the user to move a single point to virtually anywhere in the frame to assure fast, accurate autofocus operation regardless of subject placement. Manual focus is also provided.

Direct Print Mode

A significant feature first introduced in Canon digital cameras has been direct photo printing without a computer. The new G5 is compatible with all Canon direct photo printers, including the CP-100, CP-200 and CP-300 dye sublimation printers, and Canon Bubble Jet Direct Photo Printers, such as the i70 portable A4 printer, and desktop models such as the S830D and i470D. Users can control all print functions, including photo selection, print quantity, bordered or borderless prints and even image trimming directly from the camera.

Three-Minute Movie Mode

While optimized for still photography, the PowerShot G5 also records up to three minutes of Motion JPEG moving images with audio and provides in-camera editing and playback with sound.

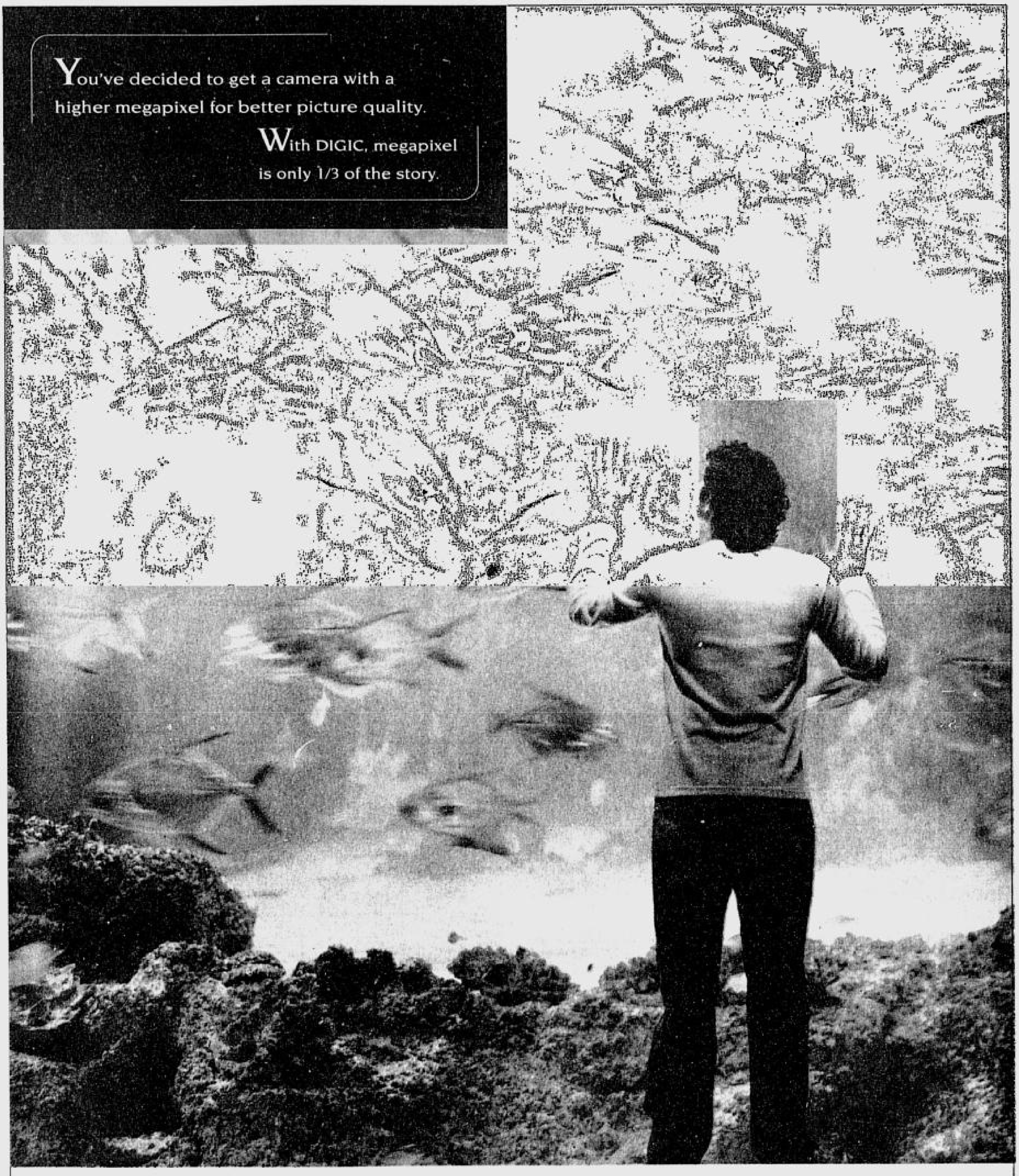
Complete Software Suite

The PowerShot G5 is packaged with a complete set of useful software, including image storage and editing, video editing, PhotoStitch™ software allowing two or more images to be combined into panoramas, and Canon's File Viewer Utility software for viewing, editing and handling RAW images. Both PC and MAC platforms are supported.

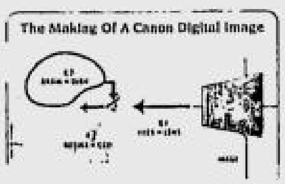
Full Range of Optional Accessories

Despite the flexibility provided by the 7.2 - 28.8mm, 4x optical zoom lens, optional

*continued on next page. **New Powershot G5**..*


You've decided to get a camera with a higher megapixel for better picture quality.
With DIGIC, megapixel is only 1/3 of the story.

Let's start by saying you need three components before you can take a great picture. They are a high-performance lens, a CCD and an intelligent image processor. Together, they work like our eyes, retina and brain to produce a digital image. It's a known fact that Canon is the world leader in lens technology. Most Canon digital cameras feature a high-resolution CCD too. Combined with DIGIC's specialised function as the brain of the digital camera, you'll get image quality that is far superior to what you ever imagine. Its super-fast architecture allows you to have low power consumption and large-capacity buffering for continuous shooting as well. So start enjoying what DIGIC has to offer because megapixel is truly just 1/3 of the story.



THE DIGIC RANGE

EOS 10D
- 6.3 megapixel CMOS
- 7-point AiAF
- Expanded playback zoom
- Advanced SLR features
- Camera Direct Print

PowerShot G5
- 5 megapixel CCD
- 4x optical zoom
- 16.4x total zoom
- FlexiZone AF/AE
- Camera Direct Print

PowerShot S50
- 5 megapixel CCD
- 3x optical zoom
- 12.3x total zoom
- 9-point AiAF and FlexiZone AF/AE
- Camera Direct Print

IXUS 400
- 4 megapixel CCD
- 3x optical zoom
- 10.8x total zoom
- 9-point AiAF
- Camera Direct Print

IXUS II
- 3.2 megapixel CCD
- 2x optical zoom
- 6.4x total zoom
- 9-point AiAF/ 1-point AF (centre)
- Camera Direct Print

PowerShot A70
- 3.2 megapixel CCD
- 3x optical zoom
- 9.6x total zoom
- 5-point AiAF
- Camera Direct Print

PowerShot A60
- 2 megapixel CCD
- 3x optical zoom
- 7.5x total zoom
- 5-point AiAF
- Camera Direct Print

PowerShot A300
- 3.2 megapixel CCD
- 5.1x digital zoom
- 5-point AiAF
- Camera Direct Print

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Canon

New Canon Digital IXUS II: Smaller Size, Bigger Performance

DIGITAL
IXUS II

* capable of supporting 3 megapixel resolution

Canon brings in the latest addition to the popular Digital IXUS line of stylish, ultra-compact digital cameras, the new Digital IXUS II with 3.2 megapixel resolution and a 2x optical zoom lens in their smallest body ever. The Digital IXUS II is the first Canon digital camera to store images on an SD Memory Card, and is designed to appeal to a broad range of consumers, including many who want a camera compact enough to carry with them everywhere.

The first Digital IXUS camera, launched in 2000, set a high standard for compact digital cameras with its slick, stainless steel look and fully retractable zoom lens in a body with a front face no larger than a credit card. Sporting a new Platinum White Finish, the Digital IXUS II retains all of these features and functions, and amazingly includes even more, in a brand new body design that can hide behind the original camera. The new all-metal casing measures just 85 x 56 x 23.9mm and weighs just 165 grams.

NEW LENS TECHNOLOGY, SD CARD AND POWER SOURCE

A key design component of the Digital IXUS series is the fully retractable Canon zoom lens with self-protecting built-in lens cap. In order to build the thinner Digital IXUS II, Canon developed the world's smallest high-quality* fully retractable 2x zoom optical system which includes 3 aspherical lenses for superior performance.

Unlike previous models, the Digital IXUS II uses an SD card instead of the larger Compact Flash (CF) memory cards. A newly designed SD Controller in the DIGIC processor maximizes the performance of the SD card, enabling high-speed transfer and storage of files produced by the 3.2 megapixel CCD. Further contributing to its small size is a compact, dedicated Lithium-Ion battery only 76% the size of the battery used in the Digital IXUS V series, but delivering 94% of its power.

MORE FEATURES IN LESS SPACE

"Since the introduction of the first Digital IXUS camera, our engineers have never stopped trying to put more and more features into the elegant, ultra-compact body," said Mr. Kazuto Ogawa, Director & General Manager, Consumer Imaging and Information Division of Canon Hongkong Co. Ltd. "Now they have outdone themselves by actually making the body smaller while still putting more features inside."

In addition to the two metering modes found in previous models, evaluative and spot metering, Canon's engineers have added center-weighted average metering to the new Digital IXUS II, giving the consumer an even greater degree of creative control.

Within its tiny body, they've also found room for a speaker for self-contained playback of Motion JPEG movie clips with sound. 3 minutes movie mode with in-camera editing has been retained in the new, smaller Digital IXUS II. There is also a new voice-memo function that allows up to 60 seconds of commentary to be added to any image during playback, such as notes on the subject matter or circumstances when the picture was made or even the voice of a loved one included in the photo.

Other key features of the Digital IXUS II include Canon's proprietary DIGIC imaging processor, 9-point AiAF, 5 photo effect modes (Vivid colour, Neutral, Low Sharpening, Sepia and Black & White), 7 white balance settings, Canon's IO (Intelligent Orientation) sensor and Continuous Shooting at approximate 2.2fps.

The "My Camera" function found on Canon's larger digital models is also included in the Digital IXUS II, allowing a choice of prerecorded sounds and images or user-recorded photos and sounds to appear as opening screens during power-up, and various sound effects that can be heard during operations such as shutter release, self-timer countdown, etc.

DIRECT PRINT MODE

A significant feature of Canon digital cameras has been direct photo printing without a computer. The Digital IXUS II is compatible with all Card Photo and Bubble Jet Direct Photo Printers, which produce up to A4 size prints. Via it's bright, 1.5-inch polysilicon TFT LCD monitor, users can control all print functions, including photo selection, print quantity, bordered or borderless prints and even image trimming.

continued on next page,
New Canon Digital IXUS II..

Canon
Digital That Inspires

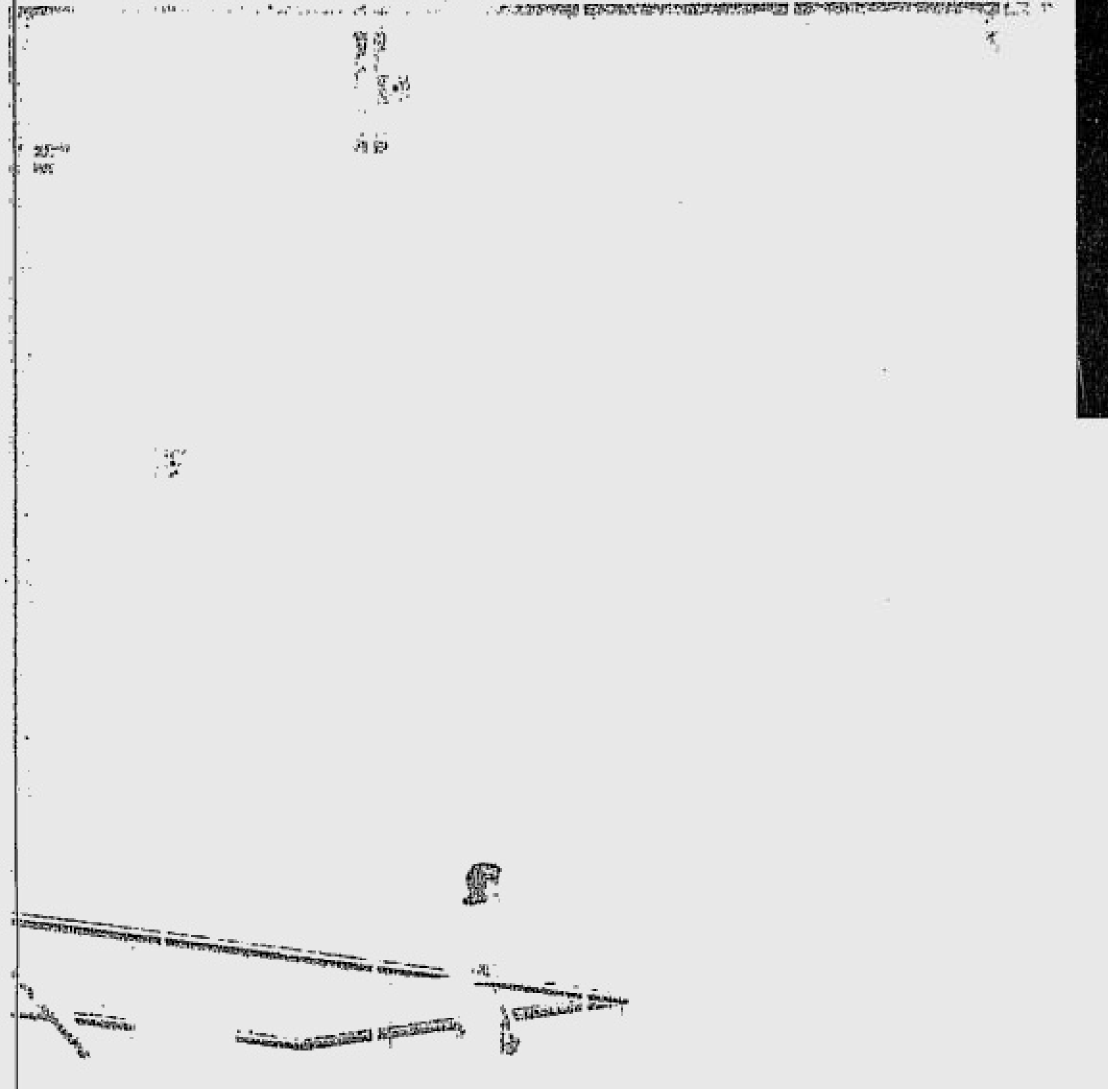
New PowerShot G5...

(continued from previous page)

Wide-Angle, Telephoto and Close-up auxiliary lenses are available to further extend its reach. A full range of Canon Speedlites can be attached, including specialized models such as Canon's Macro Twin Lite MT-24EX and Macro Ring Lite MR-14EX for extreme close-up photography. Power accessories include additional long-life Lithium batteries and a car battery charger.

"There is almost no picture-taking situation beyond the capabilities of the G5," Ogawa concluded. "It's the most photographic technology ever condensed into a digital compact body."

No DIGIC – Divided into about 256 data points



Little do you realise that the image you've captured with your camera gets divided for higher colour accuracy.

With DIGIC, it's chopped to bits.

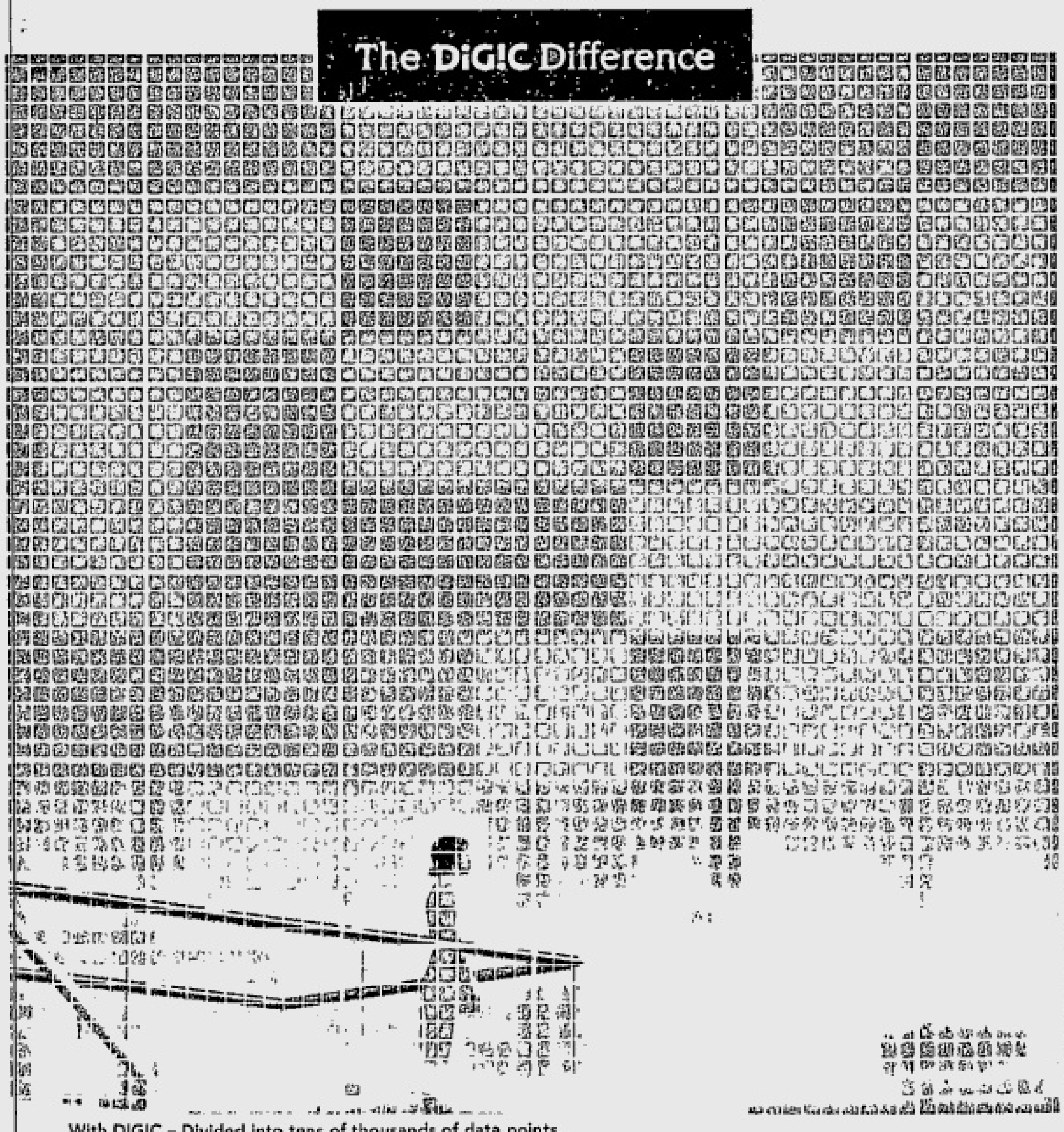
Which by the way, is a good thing. The key to faithful image reproduction is to accurately process the original information.

Up to this point, it has been necessary to strike a balance between image quality and processing time, by such means as eliminating some of the detail processing.

DIGIC, Canon's exclusive digital imaging processor, features unique technology that enables high-speed, high-quality processing.

For instance, using tens of thousands of data points per image, DIGIC's Intelligent Auto White Balance finely divides up the image imported from the CCD and evaluates the external light source by assessing colour information.

By doing so, it consistently achieves a wonderful colour balance over a wide range of lighting conditions. The result is truly stunning. Needless to say, you'll get superior image quality that'll capture your imagination.



Pictures magnified to explain the technology

With DIGIC – Divided into tens of thousands of data points

THE DIGIC RANGE

EOS 10D
- 6.3 megapixel CMOS
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- Expanded playback zoom
- Advanced SLR features
- Camera Direct Print

PowerShot G5
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- 3x optical zoom
- 12.3x total zoom
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IXUS II
- 3.2 megapixel CCD
- 2x optical zoom
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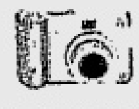
- 9-point AiAF/1-point AF (centre)
- Camera Direct Print



PowerShot A70
- 3.2 megapixel CCD
- 3x optical zoom
- 9.6x total zoom
- 5-point AiAF
- Camera Direct Print

PowerShot A60
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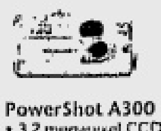
- Camera Direct Print



PowerShot A300
- 3.2 megapixel CCD
- 5.1x digital zoom
- 5-point AiAF
- Camera Direct Print

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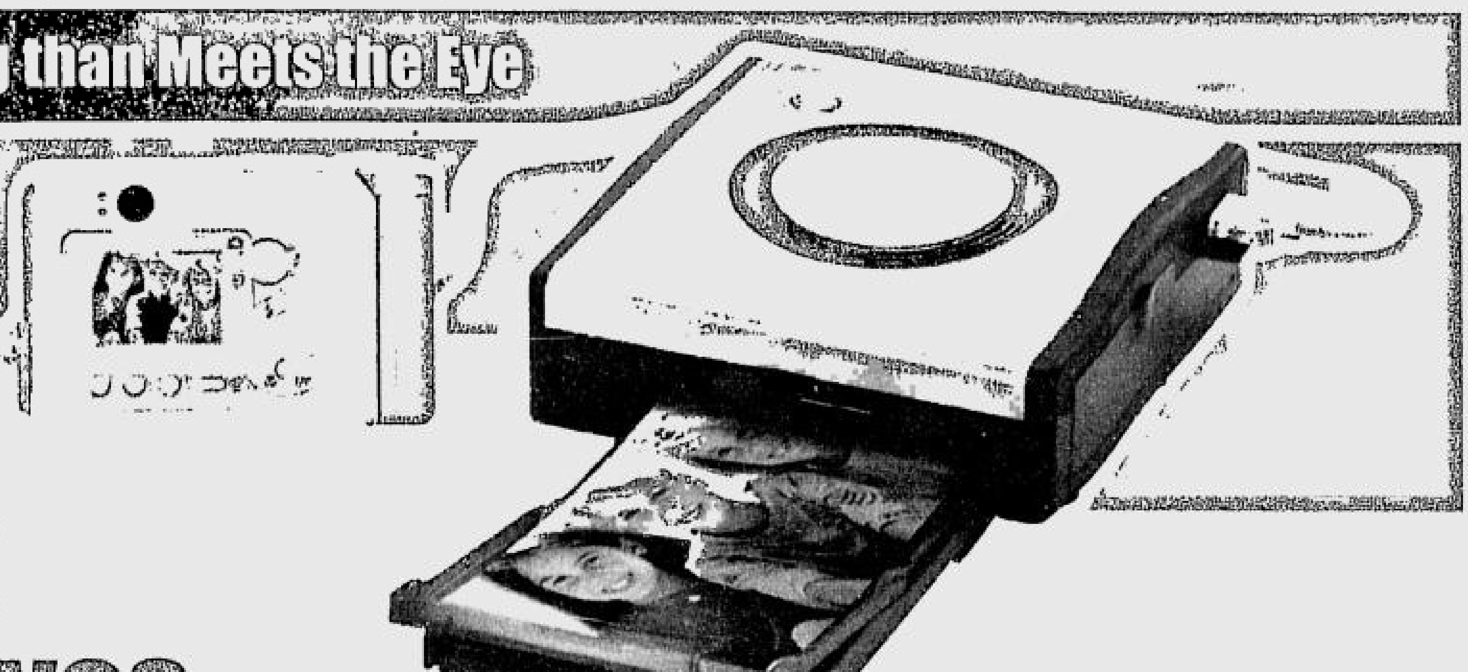
Canon

More to Pointing and Shooting than Meets the Eye



Canon direct-to-print technology paves way for limitless business solutions

If you think your digital camera is merely for pointing, shooting and storing photos of loved ones, scenic shots, and other similar photography subjects, well think again. As the digital camera technology continues to evolve, its function also advances from just a mere gadget to take and keep pictures with, to something more useful, even productive.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. (CMPI) kept this advancement in digital technology in mind, thus coming up with perfect business solutions for users that include the company's fine line of digital cameras, bubble jet printers and direct photo printers.

"This is actually the concept behind the direct-to-print technology that we've been strongly advocating since we launched our new line of digital cameras and printers," said Lesley Ang, Product Development Officer, for Image Communication Products at CMPI's Consumer Imaging and Information Division. "There are so many applications out there that can actually be turned into a business solution using our cameras and printers."

With its revolutionary direct printing concept, Canon is one of the few camera manufacturers to offer direct printing solutions that provide users who do not use computers as an option to output their digital images by simply connecting their digital camera to the printer without the hassle of taking out the CF card.

This also allowed Canon to identify the potential for promoting digital print home labs, wherein instead of sending

continued on next page,
More to Pointing and Shooting...

New Canon Digital IXUS II...

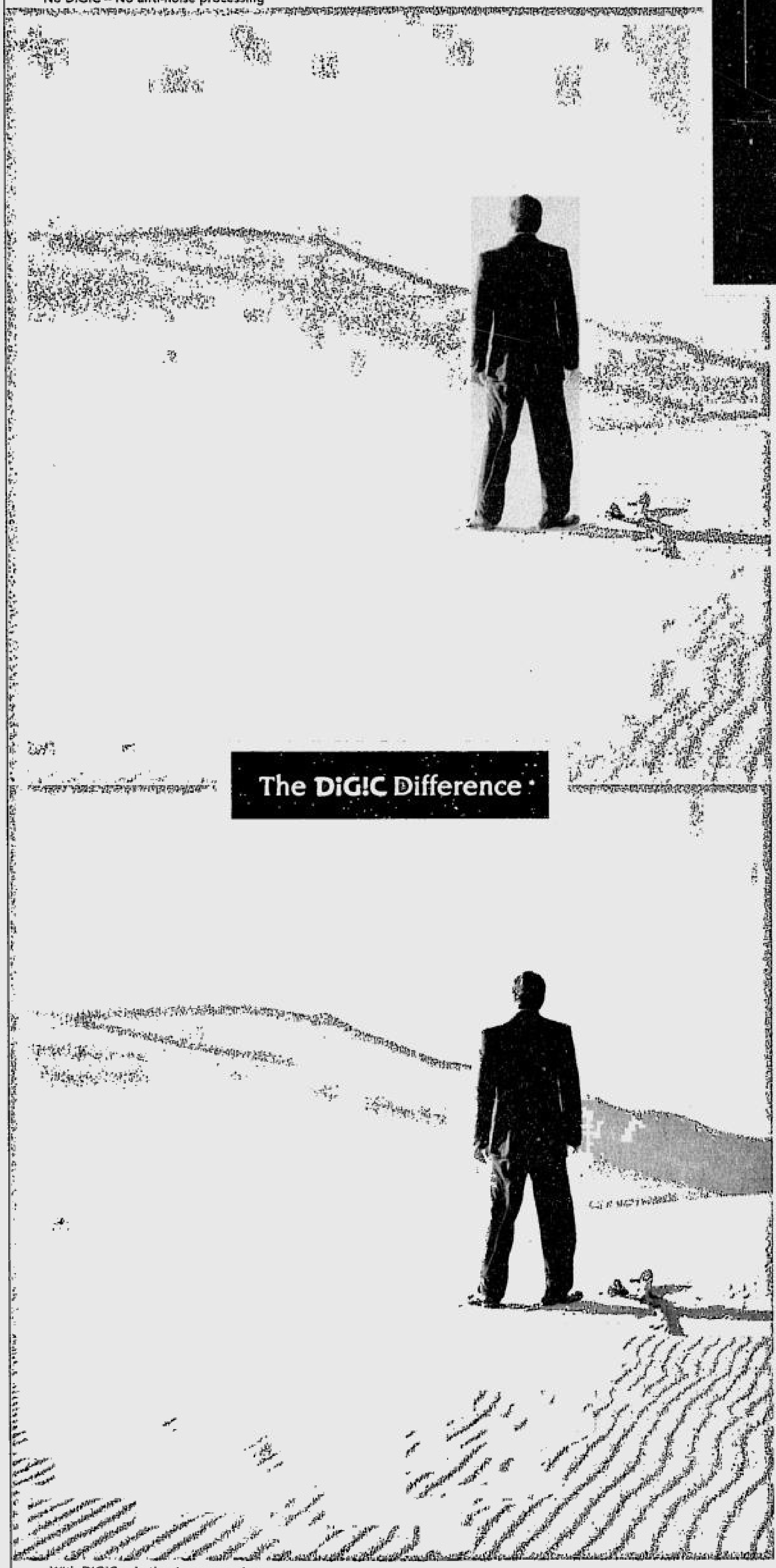
(continued from previous page)

CANON PLEDGES QUALITY FIRST, COMPACTNESS SECOND

A guiding philosophy in the design of the Digital IXUS II was to maintain the high standards of photographic excellence and superior image quality that are the hallmarks of the Canon Digital IXUS line. It was never an option to reduce image quality in order to reduce body size.

"While some manufacturers may sacrifice quality or features in order to offer the public extremely lightweight, compact cameras, our new Digital IXUS II is small enough and light enough to be carried everywhere but also precision engineered to deliver sharp, clear images with full colour fidelity," concluded Mr. Ogawa. "Why reach into a pocket or purse for an ordinary digital camera when you can pull out a Canon Digital IXUS II?"

No DIGIC – No anti-noise processing



With DIGIC – Anti-noise processing

The noise created by a camera's image processing can dramatically degrade the picture quality.

With DIGIC, you can't "see" the noise.

With Canon digital cameras, there's no need to erase noise simply because it's not even generated. Noise, by the way, is the visible effect of an electronic interference on images. This generally leads to picture degeneration in the final image from a digital camera.

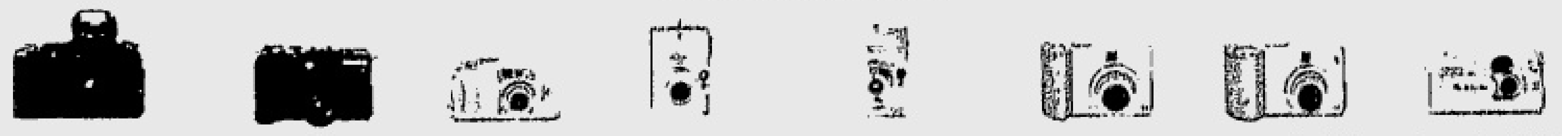
So how do we prevent the generation of noise? With our own digital imaging processor called DIGIC developed in our labs.

You see, it's widely known that noise is largely generated during image processing and manufacturers of other processors have touted various noise reduction techniques as advanced features. But we beg to differ.

In fact, most of these are "brute force" approaches that attempt to erase noise after it has been generated in the image processor. Invariably, these techniques result in degraded resolution on the final image.

On the other hand, DIGIC prevents noise from being generated. By dealing with noise at its source, Canon delivers superior image quality without compromising resolution. And that's something you can clearly see.

THE DIGIC RANGE



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PowerShot A70
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PowerShot A300
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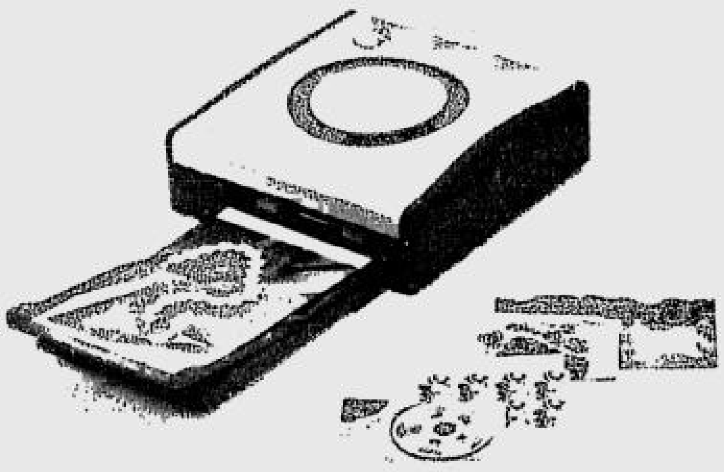
Canon

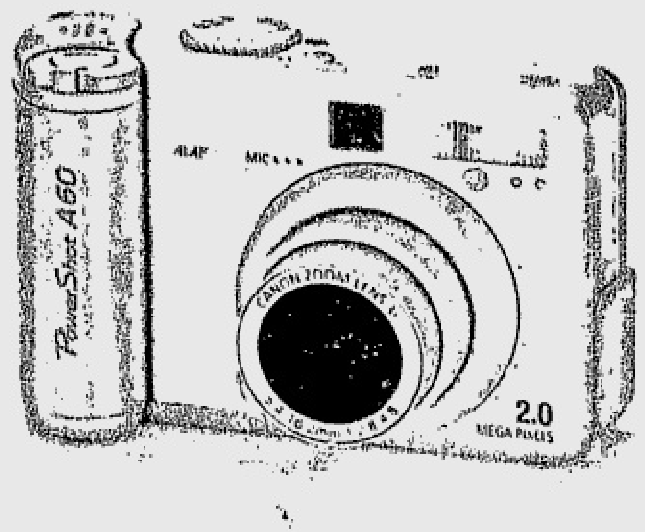
More to Pointing and Shooting...

(continued from previous page)

photos to a commercial digital photo lab, Canon makes it easy and affordable for consumers to produce their own quality digital photos at home.

Apart from the direct photo printers, Canon also has the latest line up in Bubble Jet printers with updated drivers featuring new color tables that allow Easy-PhotoPrint to process digital images using all of its colors. Through this software application the printer can capture the information and print accurate photos according to original conditions in which the photo was taken. As digital cameras and printers have larger color capability than computer monitors, Easy-PhotoPrint can also utilize this larger color capability to produce more vibrant photos.





Real Estate Solution

One such business solution, according to Ang, is the use of digital cameras and direct photo printers to sell houses and properties in the real estate business. "Having a Canon Digital Solution handy helps the broker expand his selling power beyond walkthroughs," said Ang. "After your on-location walkthrough, you can quickly print out photos to let your clients walk away with, or e-mail these images to offsite clients.

Ang said that a combination of a Canon PowerShot A60 and CP-100 Direct printer can easily produce high quality and most accurate property photos to a broker's clients quickly and easily. "It doesn't take a professional photographer to shoot, store, categorize and print photos of houses or properties in the real estate business," she further explained. "You can actually spend more time with your clients instead of away preparing materials for them, allowing the 'property' to do the selling for you."

Using an optional 24mm Wide conversion lens, property sellers are allowed to capture accurate views of the property as it appears, not how the camera translates. Whether it is an entire home, office, room, or piece of property, your clients now have complete, high-resolution views of the listings you show, wherever and whenever they are needed. "With a highly competitive market, business people like those in real estate really has to come up with ways that will give them an added edge - using Canon solutions that eases their workload is just one of the ways to do it."

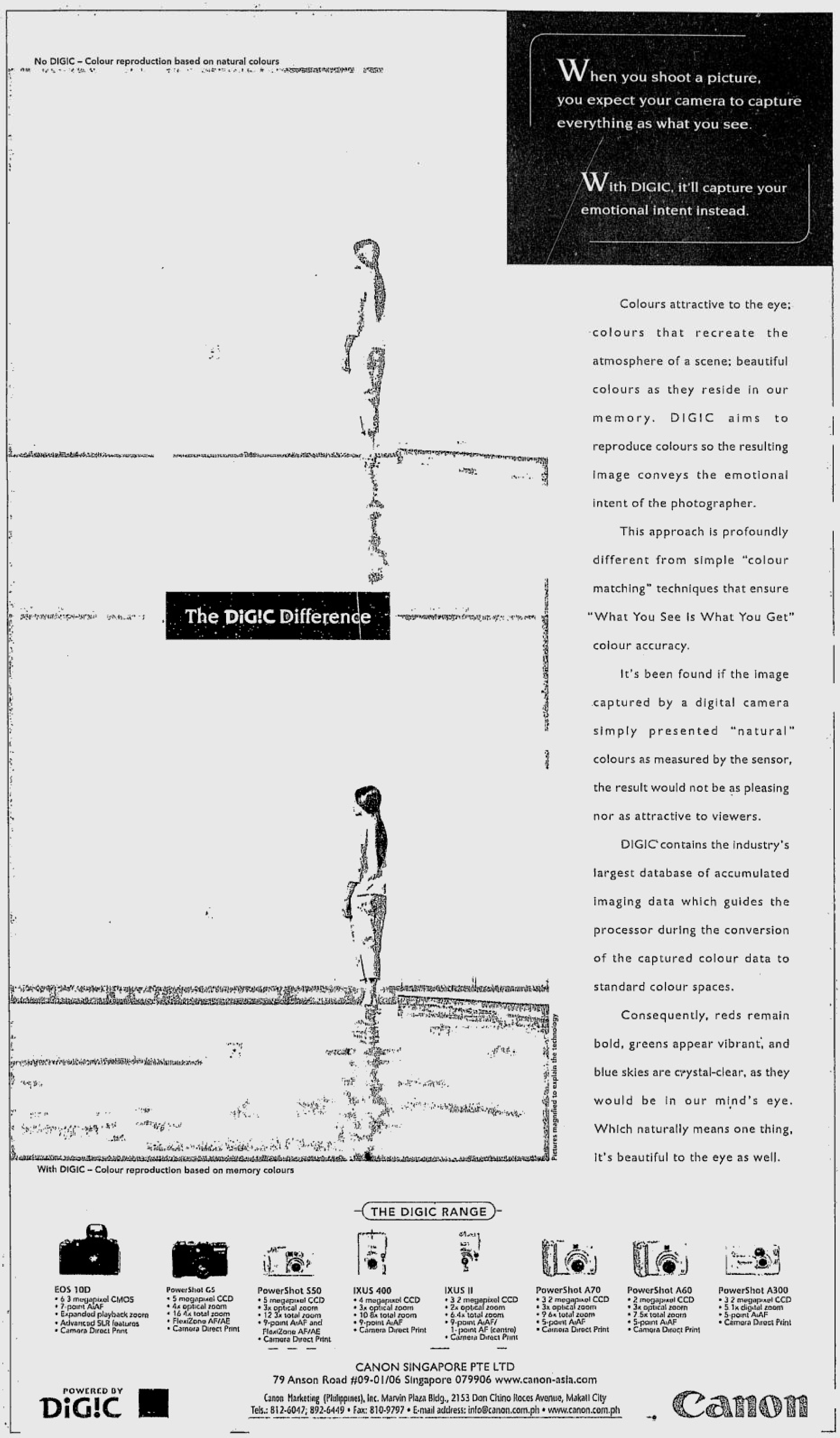
The PowerShot A60 produces excellent image quality with a 2.0 Megapixel CCD that ensures vivid, sharply detailed images. With 7.5x combined digital zoom, zooming becomes quick and seamless for spontaneous shooting. It also has a 5-point AiAF (Artificial Intelligent Auto Focus) that ensures precise focus in any shooting situation, whether the camera is held horizontally or vertically.

The Canon Card Photo Printer CP-100, on the other hand, allows users to create extremely high quality color prints directly via USB cable from the PowerShot A60 in about 85 seconds. Different sized bordered or borderless prints, ranging from miniature stickers and wallet-sized prints to 4x6-inch photo postcards can also be produced with the CP-100.

Grab them while they are hot

The Canon PowerShot A60 and CP-100 is currently available at all Canon authorized dealers. From this month until August 22, 2003, a PowerShot A60 digital camera with CP-100 Direct printer can be purchased at absolutely 0% interest for 12 months using a Citibank credit card through selected dealers. For a suggested retail price of P30,700, the Citibank cardholder can enjoy the PowerShot A60 and CP-100 direct with a free camera bag by paying a mere P2,558.33 monthly.

Canon
Digital That Inspires


No DIGIC – Colour reproduction based on natural colours

The DIGIC Difference

With DIGIC – Colour reproduction based on memory colours

Pictures magnified to explain the technology

When you shoot a picture, you expect your camera to capture everything as what you see.

With DIGIC, it'll capture your emotional intent instead.

Colours attractive to the eye; colours that recreate the atmosphere of a scene; beautiful colours as they reside in our memory. DIGIC aims to reproduce colours so the resulting image conveys the emotional intent of the photographer.

This approach is profoundly different from simple "colour matching" techniques that ensure "What You See Is What You Get" colour accuracy.

It's been found if the image captured by a digital camera simply presented "natural" colours as measured by the sensor, the result would not be as pleasing nor as attractive to viewers.

DIGIC contains the industry's largest database of accumulated imaging data which guides the processor during the conversion of the captured colour data to standard colour spaces.

Consequently, reds remain bold, greens appear vibrant, and blue skies are crystal-clear, as they would be in our mind's eye. Which naturally means one thing, it's beautiful to the eye as well.

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IXUS II
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PowerShot A70
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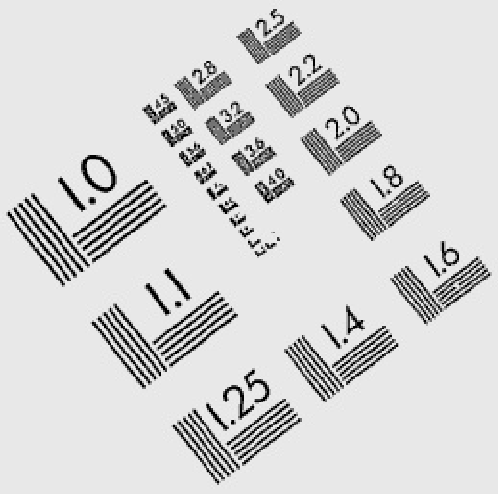
Canon

IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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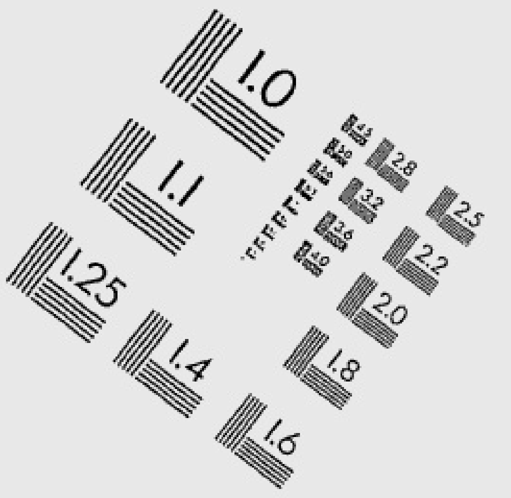
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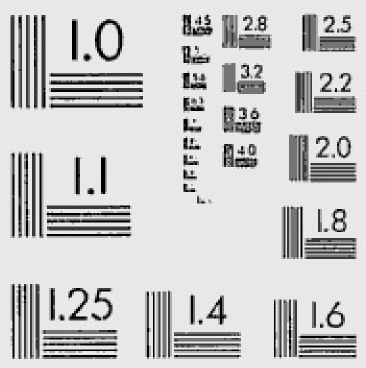
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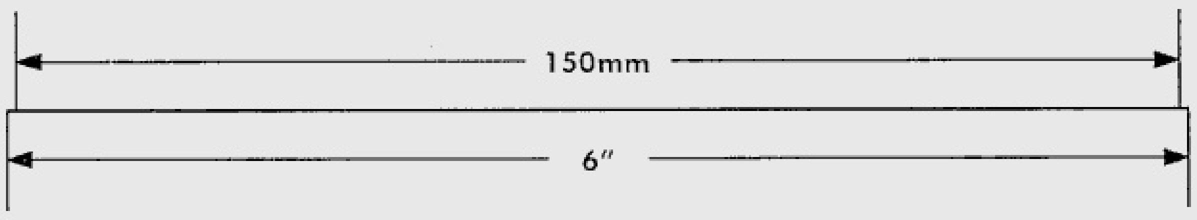

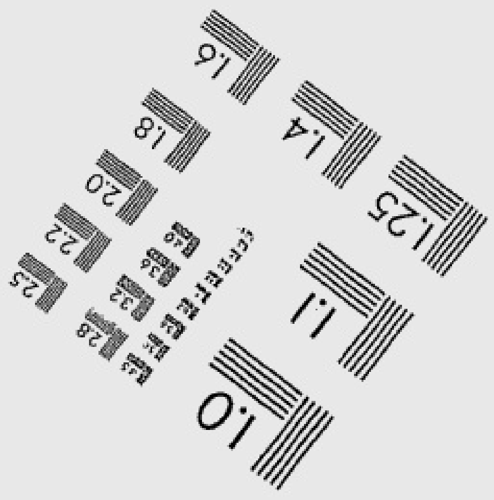
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Rochester, NY 14609 USA
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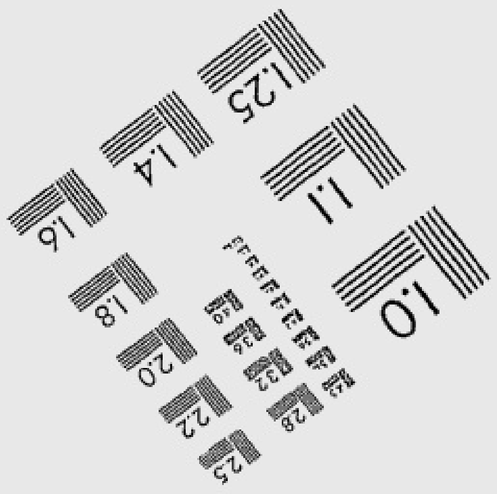
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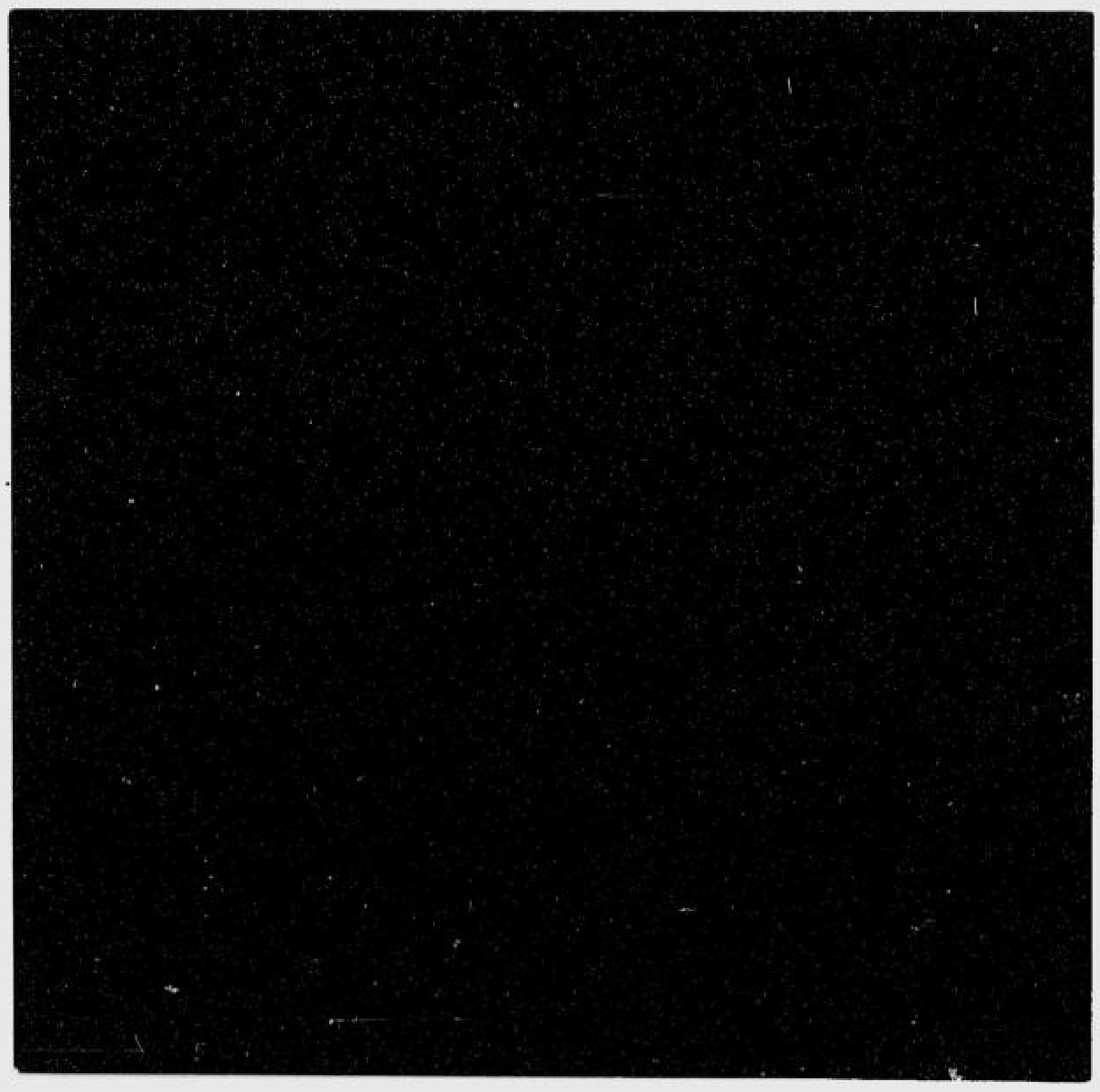

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2003

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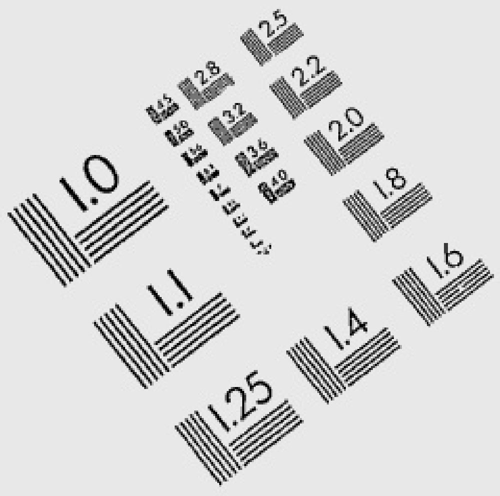
IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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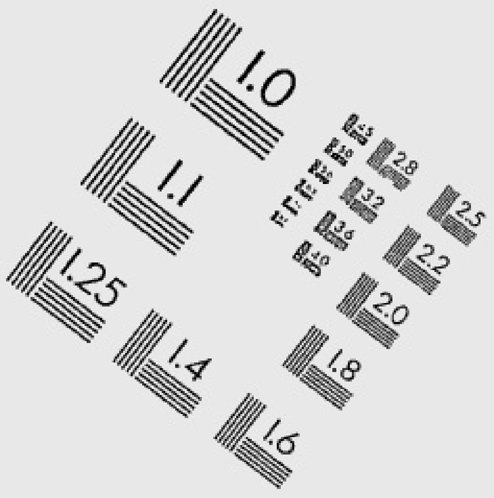
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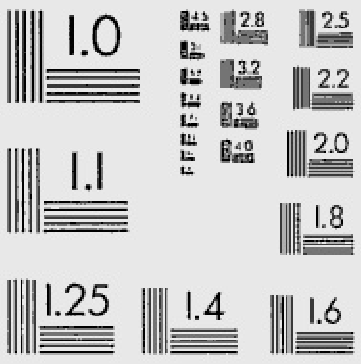
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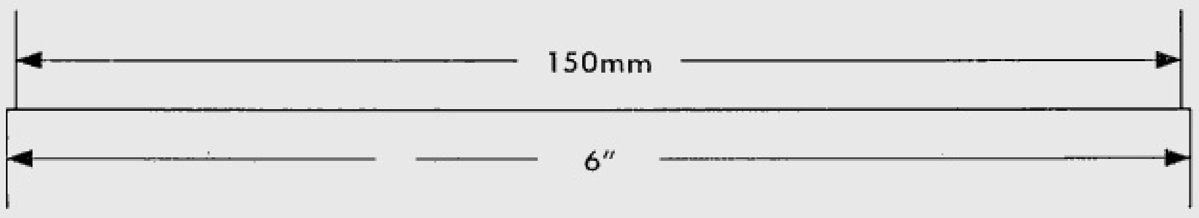

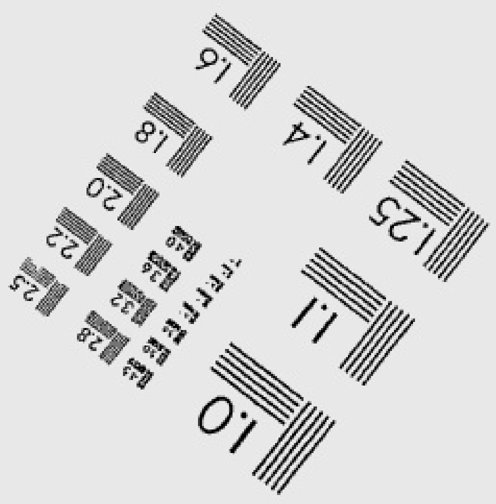
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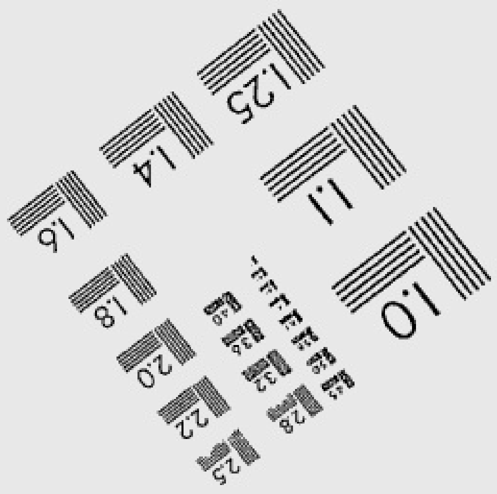
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